Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Inos: Some $134M budget eyed for FY 2015. PAGE 6
Political status bill now heads to governor. PAGE 9

41-month sentence for Ayuyu

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ayuyu

The federal court imposed yesterday a 41-month prison term on former senator Juan M. Ayuyu.

"You did not gain financially, but you have brought a significant shame to the Office of the Senate of the Commonwealth," U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona told the 49-year-old Ayuyu.

See AYUYU on Page 4

NMC's new 4-year degree OK'd

» 4-year degree program in business ready for fall 2014
» 'Substantive change' to be submitted to senior commission

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After lengthy deliberations both in open and executive sessions, the plan to offer a brand new four-year degree program at the Northern Marianas College was approved by the Board of Regents yesterday.

The new baccalaureate degree in business will bring to two the number of four-year degree programs avail-

See NMC on Page 4

FIGHTING SEXUAL ASSAULT

Ayuda Network and Karidat Social Services staff and workers man their booth during yesterday's proclamation signing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider inked three proclamations that designate April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness Month, and Week of the Young Child.

JAYSON CAMACHO

See story on Page 2

Propst vies for Precinct 1 House seat

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ed Propst, a long-time advocate for a transparent, accountable, and corruption-free government, will seek a seat in the House of Representatives representing Precinct 1 in the November elections. He will be an independent candidate.

Propst, 43, said that instead of a "platform," his team will be preparing a "contract" with the people of Precinct 1 that spells out "the things that I will do and will not do."

"The problem with platforms is that as soon as they're written, they're ignored and they're thrown away," Propst said in an interview yesterday.

Propst

Propst said the "culture of politics up at Capital Hill needs to change," adding that the CNMI needs to have leaders that are "going to read the bills, debate and discuss bills, and look what is really in the best interest of not the select few but all of our people."

"[People] have asked me, 'what are you going to do when none of your bills gets passed?' I've been telling people the job of a legislator is not [only] making sure that the bills get passed but [also]

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274 DAYS
BEFORE THE CW PROGRAM EXPIRES ON DEC. 31, 2014

OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you know that the Call-A-Ride Service is now open to the general public?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Apple and Samsung are accusing each other, once again, of ripping off designs and features.

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LIFE & STYLE

Hyatt Regency Saipan is excited to announce the introduction of "Giovanni's To Go."

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Local

3 proclamations recognize need to protect kids, women

Government officials, advocates, students, and supporters pose for a group photo after yesterday's proclamation signing at the Multi-Purpose Center to raise awareness about sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, and early childhood. JAYSON CAMACHO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider inked three proclamations at a signing ceremony held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday morning.

More than 50 students, government officials, private organizations, and media attended the proclamation signing during the hour-and-a-half presentation.

All proclamations designate April as the official month to highlight the specific objectives of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness Month, and Week of the Young Child.

Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness Month

Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian Sablan said the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-DYS continues to build on its capacity: "One, prevent child abuse and neglect; two, respond to child abuse and neglect; and three, manage and supervise cases and provide supportive programs and services, which are all essential components needed to work toward the ultimate goal of re-unification and thus preserving families."

DYS volunteer Mary Grace Atalig, who read the proclamation, stated that "every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, secured, and protected from verbal, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse, exploitation, and neglect."

The theme for this year Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Campaign is "Making Meaningful Connections."

"Making meaningful connections warrants the ability to work with both risk and protective factors as an effective prevention and intervention strategy," Sablan said.

"We believe that prevention is key and that is to work toward eliminating the risk factors. We need to build on these protective factors to lessen the risk of child abuse and neglect," she added.

DYS continues to offer Parent Education classes, Parents Anonymous Support Group meetings, Parent Development Workshops, school and community presentations on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, and many more outreach programs.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Kiki Igitol Benjamin, a member of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month Committee, said this year "marks the sixth consecutive year that the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, in partnership with the Family Violence Task Force, has reaffirmed their dedication to not only lift the veil of secrecy but to increase awareness, engage bystanders, and expand support and strengthen our system response."

The theme "Your Voice, Our Future: End Sexual Violence," encourages all community members to use their voice to create a future and a community free of sexual violence.

"We can start also challenges within us, as a community, to be a part of the solution to strengthening prevention efforts and ending sexual violence," read volunteer Annie Brazel.

Benjamin said the purpose of the awareness campaign is to increase public education efforts that encourage collective action toward ending sexual assault, supporting survivors, and speaking out against the harmful attitudes that perpetuate violence in the CNMI.

Early Childhood Month/ Week of the Young Child

The last proclamation signed was the Early Childhood Month proclamation that also designated the "Week of the Young Child" from April 6 to 12 in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Youth Affairs Office's Vernon Lee Manglona, who read the proclamation, stated that "it is a time to recognize the importance of early learning,

See CHILDREN on Next Page

CABLE COMPANIES FIGHTING
OUTRAGEOUS PROGRAMMER RATE HIKES.

DOCOMO PACIFIC is standing with 890 U.S. cable operators to control excessive TV network fee increases so that the company can protect their cable subscribers from significant programming fee increases. Viacom, owner of MTV Networks, may be dropping cable network signals because DOCOMO PACIFIC and hundreds of cable networks nationwide are refusing to agree to Viacom's unreasonable fee increases, which will have costly repercussions for cable subscribers.

While DOCOMO PACIFIC is restricted from talking about specific rates, Viacom demanded a rate increase that is 40 times the rate of standard network inflation. This increase would be comparable to driving to a gas pump and finding that gas has gone from $3.50 a gallon to $6.00 – overnight. That's the scale of some of these large network increases. The fees from these networks account for the bulk of each customer's monthly cable bill. As the largest cable provider of the region, DOCOMO PACIFIC is taking a stand on behalf of the company, customers and community to prevent cable network content giants like Viacom from demanding unreasonable rates from smaller communities.

As a result of this resistance, cable channels that are supplied by Viacom may be off the air effective April 1st, 2014. These channels include Spike, Nickelodeon, MTV, TV Land, CMT, Comedy Central, VH1, MTV2, MTV Jams, MTV Hits, Logo, Nick Jr, Teen Nick and NickToons. This network "blackout" will affect over five million cable TV subscribers across the nation. This isn't the first time that Viacom has used this tactic. In 2012, for example, Viacom pulled its content from DirecTV when DirecTV balked at a 30% cost increase. At that time, Viacom ran ads blaming DirecTV for the blackout.

"Guam and Saipan make up just a small part of the U.S. cable industry market and Viacom is a large network provider that is trying to force us and other smaller cable providers into increasing our rates by an outrageous amount. The final agreement will impact your monthly bill and our goal is to provide all of your favorite shows – at a reasonable price. Be assured that we are on your side to make the best deal possible and are working hard to get Viacom to agree to a more reasonable rate increase." Thomas Higa, Chief Marketing Officer, DOCOMO PACIFIC. DOCOMO PACIFIC urges cable subscribers to get more information regarding this matter at www. docomopacific.com/tv.

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NOAA awards $120,000 to University of Guam

Guam park closed after fire ants

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A section of War in the Pacific National Historical Park in Guam has been closed after the presence of the invasive little fire ants was discovered.

Pacific Daily News says the Asan Beach unit of the park has been closed to reduce the possibility of spreading the little fire ants.

The closure also aims to protect the public from the ants, which are tiny but can produce painful stings.

Officials are considering several options to eradicate the pest from Asan Beach, including the application of pesticides, and cutting and burning infested trees.

The little fire ant was first discovered in Guam in 2011 and first found in Hawaii in Puna in 1999.

The species is native to South America.

CHILDREN

From Page 2

early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers, caregivers, and policymakers that bring early childhood education to young children."

According to Motheread/Fatheread Program's Beth Demapan, early childhood professionals work together to improve practices and working conditions in early childhood education and build public support for better programs.

"Community partners support health and safety, nutrition and social services for our young children, and families to ensure high-quality services needed to achieve positive outcomes and self-reliance," Demapan said.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the University of Guam is a recipient of the 2013 Saltonstall-Kennedy Program Awards. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association has announced over $10 million in recommended funding for 40 projects under the program. Of the $10 million, the University of Guam will receive $119,112 for bomb radiocarbon dating in support of Territorial Science and Bio-sampling of fisheries in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The S-K Grant Program is a competitive program administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service of NOAA, Department of Commerce. The program provides financial assistance for research and development projects to benefit the U.S. fishing industry. Available funds will support projects in aquaculture, conservation engineering, ecosystem studies, fisheries socioeconomics and identifying ways to help fishermen better achieve their annual quotas of fish so they can be more profitable in coastal regions throughout the United States and the Territories. The University of Guam's grant application was reviewed based on technical merit and for usefulness to stakeholders.

"I am pleased that the University of Guam has been chosen to be a part of the Saltonstall-Kennedy Program and will be receiving nearly $120,000 in grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association," said Bordallo. "This grant will continue to help Guam focus on the Territorial Science program throughout the territories. This is part of efforts by NOAA to enhance scientific data regarding local fisheries and I am glad that they are involving our local researchers. I commend the University of Guam for their work in successfully obtaining this funding, and I look forward to these funds being used to benefit Guam's fishing industry." ***(PR)***

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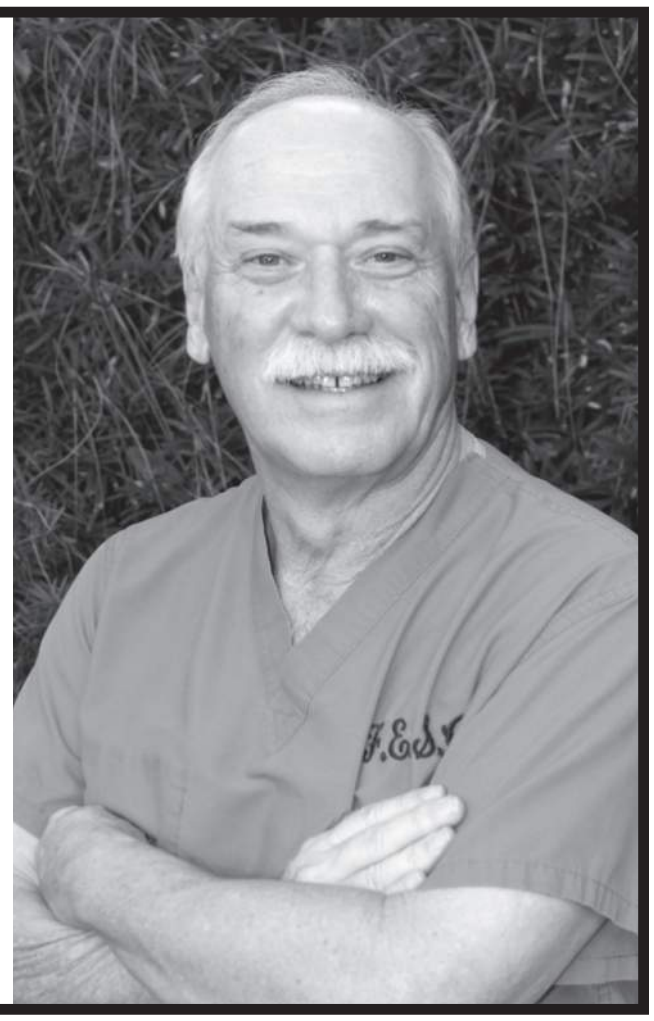

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9th Circuit reverses dismissal of Hillbroom's case vs lawyer

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has reversed the federal court decision that dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction the lawsuit filed by Junior Larry Hillbroom against his former lawyer, Barry J. Israel, who is reportedly now based in Vietnam.

In a memorandum on Friday, the Ninth Circuit judges ruled that Hillbroom established that Israel deliberately "engaged in significant activities" within the CNMI.

The Ninth Circuit judges said the amended retainer agreement required Israel to represent Hillbroom in CNMI legal proceedings and to protect Hillbroom's interests in assets located in the Commonwealth.

The judges remanded the case to the federal court.

In January 2012, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Israel's motion to dismiss the claims against him.

Manglona pointed out that Hillbroom's lawsuit was filed in 2010, nine years after Israel moved away from the CNMI and ceased meaningful contacts. She ruled that the court lacks general jurisdiction over the lawyer.

Hillbroom appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's ruling.

In their order, the Circuit judges said that Israel directed his activities at the CNMI because the amended retainer agreement executed in Guam provided Israel with a greater financial stake in property located in the CNMI.

The judges said the significance of those forum ties is not negated simply because Hillbroom was not a resident of the CNMI when he filed suit.

Second, Hillbroom's claim "arises out of or relates to the defendant's forum-related activities," the Circuit judges said.

The judges said that Israel's promised performance in the CNMI was an essential feature of the amended retainer agreement and is the basis for fees collected under the agreement for which Hillbroom now seeks recoupment.

Finally, the judges said, Israel has not established that asserting jurisdiction would be unreasonable; Israel is a U.S. citizen who injected himself into CNMI affairs; exercising jurisdiction would not conflict with the sovereignty of Israel's current residence (Vietnam); the district court can resolve this dispute efficiently; and that hearing the case in the CNMI can provide convenient and effective relief.

Hillbroom is the son of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom. Israel was one of the lawyers who represented Hillbroom in the probate case.

Hillbroom is suing Israel for allegedly conspiring to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings.

Israel asked the federal court to dismiss the case against him for lack of personal jurisdiction, for lack of standing, for improper venue, and other grounds. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

With Saipan casino law, POB float now a 'backup' plan

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that legalizing casino gaming on Saipan will not necessarily put a brake on the plan to float a pension obligation bond—which could be anywhere between $60 million and $120 million—but unlike before, the POB could now be more of a "backup" plan to ensure that the government does not default on its payments to the retirement settlement trust account, among other things.

Some lawmakers are hoping that allowing a casino industry on Saipan to generate much-needed revenue will no longer force the CNMI to float a bond that could put CNMI future generations in debt.

But the governor said yesterday that the POB plan is not necessarily on hold, although he recognizes that the POB plan has costs associated with interest.

He said even the Saipan casino bill is "not enough."

"POB will be there, available, but would be utilized only at extreme conditions so as not to allow us to go into default on the settlement agreement," the governor said in an interview after proclamation signings yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

He said POB remains a plan, and the authority to issue a POB is already in place.

"If needed, then we'll have to come back and activate it… POB is not necessarily on hold. There's just a lot of stuff that needs to be done to issue the POB," he said, citing the need to evaluate the CNMI's credit worthiness, among other things.

Public Law 18-12 authorizes the Commonwealth Development Authority to issue pension obligation bonds of up to $300 million on behalf of the CNMI to pay the government's retirement obligations. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

PROPST

From Page 1

ensure that bad bills don't get passed. We're the watchdog of the CNMI and we have to protect our assets with little money we have," he added.

He said his main motivation is "the ability to help others," coupled with "frustration with the way things are done for far too long."

Propst was among those who publicly supported the 17th and 18th House's impeachment resolutions against former governor Benigno R. Fitial for corruption, felony, and neglect of duty, and has been vocal about what he perceives as the government's improper handling of public affairs, including the Saipan casino gaming bill that he said was "rushed" to passage without the benefit of a public hearing and without proper review by lawmakers.

For about a month, Propst weighed the pros and cons of seeking elected office and he came up with a decision on Sunday night.

Propst is a graduate of Marianas High School. He went to Northern Marianas College, and graduated from University of Hawaii at Manoa in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in communications. He is currently program manager of the Public School System's Head Start.

Precinct 1 has six available seats but the number of declared and potential candidates is now much more than that as of this week.

NMC

From Page 1

able at NMC. The other is the baccalaureate degree in elementary education.

The degree program in business will be offered beginning this fall 2014 semester.

The next step is for the college to submit what is called "substantive change" to the senior commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This essentially informs WASC that the college will be offering a new four-year degree program.

NMC, which is currently under the Association of Community Colleges and Junior Colleges, wants to shift its accreditation to the senior commission, which allows the offering of more than one baccalaureate program and multiple associate degree programs. ACCJC and the senior commission are both components of WASC.

Elizabeth Rechebei, the board's program committee chair, endorsed yesterday the implementation of the new program after the fiscal committee outlined its advantages to the panel.

Fiscal committee chair William Torres said that based on the fiscal-impact analysis provided by the college, the new program will bring about $34,000 in direct financial impact to NMC in its first year of offering. Torres said that NMC expects to need only three additional faculty members and targets a minimum enrollment of 48 students per semester. NMC plans to adopt cross-utilization of resources including technology, facility, and manpower.

Torres said his committee finds it "meritorious" for the Board of Regents to "bless" the new initiative as it would create a big difference not only for individuals but the CNMI in general.

Prior to voting yesterday, Rechebei disclosed that the program's endorsement is tied with assurance that Rota and Tinian students will not be left behind and other existing programs will be not affected.

Rechebei pointed out that NMC has been working on expanding its baccalaureate program offerings for the longest time but has been hampered by accreditation concerns, among others.

Several students and faculty were present at yesterday's meeting where they reiterated their pledge of support for the new four-year degree.

Leonisa Laoyan and Vanessa Andrea Espinosa, who are graduating from NMC this semester, appealed to the board to approve the new business degree program, which they intend to pursue at the University of Guam next semester.

Espinosa, a business student under the hospitality management, is convinced that by offering a similar business degree program at NMC, many local students would stop transferring to other universities and colleges. She said this would bring substantial savings to the individual students and their families.

The same sentiment was echoed by community member Irene Tudela.

NMC staff Lisa Hacskaylo shared that in her 20 years of serving the college, she has noted "the interest and a great desire" of students to pursue a four-year business degree.

Eric Plinske, former NMC business department chair who serves as a member of the program advisory council, said that NMC's decision would help retain scholars on the island. He mentioned that in the past, the college tried to work with universities and colleges to partner on a business program at NMC—all of which never materialized. He cited a 2006 survey among students where 150 respondents said they wanted to be involved in a business degree program once it is offered at NMC.

Lizama airs concern

Prior to voting yesterday, board member Juan Lizama pointed out some concerns specific to the implementation of a new four-year degree program in business.

Among these is the assurance that the new program would be taught by qualified and credentialed staff, and the ability of the college to hire them.

"I'm not against [the new program], but I have to look at it deeper," said Lizama, who also asked for a brief executive session before the voting of members.

Students, some holding placards stating their support for the new program, were elated upon the board's approval yesterday.

Alex Shen, president of the Associated Students of NMC and former honorary regent, believes that this fall semester, "there would be a decent amount of students who may enroll in the business program."

Shen disclosed that most students that transfer to UOG every year pursue the business course offered at the institution.

NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart was also elated with the board's decision and recognized the hard work done by the college's employees in preparing all data and information for the new program.

AYUYU

From Page 1

Ayuyu was sentenced to only six months in prison for conspiring with others to smuggle dead fruit bats from Rota to Saipan but got the much lengthier sentence of 41 months in prison for what he later did to cover up his tracks, including instructing his co-defendant to lie to a grand jury.

Both sentences shall run concurrently. This means that the total actual prison term for the two charges is 41 months. Ayuyu was given credit for 228 days of time served.

Manglona allowed Ayuyu to remain free until a federal prison facility is identified where he will serve his sentence.

The judge did not impose a fine but required the former senator to pay a $110 court assessment fee.

After completing his sentence, Ayuyu will be placed on three years of supervised release. He will be required to perform 100 hours of community service.

The former senator had three criminal cases—the fruit bat case, obstruction of justice case, and cell phone possession case. He pleaded guilty to two charges.

Before Manglona handed down the sentence, she allowed Ayuyu to address the court.

Ayuyu begged for the lowest prison term, saying, among other things, that he still has one daughter studying in college.

"I know I made a mistake. It's hard for me to say 'no,'" Ayuyu said. "I'm not a perfect human."

He said he did a lot of things to help people and that it hurts him when the prosecutor portrays him as a bad father.

"My daughter and my wife are here. I did not commit adultery to my wife," said Ayuyu, glancing at his wife and daughter who were crying in the courtroom.

He mentioned that his son is serving in the U.S. Army, serving the nation for freedom.

"Am I a bad father?" he asked.

Ayuyu said he admits that he broke the law and that he has sincerely apologized.

"I suffered a lot. I will continue to be a law-abiding citizen," he said.

As Ayuyu was about to take a seat, he went back to the podium to announce that it was his wife's birthday yesterday.

In sentencing Ayuyu, Manglona said one month prior to Ayuyu being involved in the fruit bat case, three Rota residents were indicted in the same court for poaching on a breeding colony of threatened Mariana fruit bats.

The three are Ayuyu's own constituents, said Manglona, referring to Albert Taitano, Adrian Mendiola, and David Santos. Apparently, Manglona said, Ayuyu was not deterred by the three's indictment.

In the obstruction of justice case, the judge said that Ayuyu admitted that he met with co-defendant Ryan Manglona in his office—a place reserved for those who are entrusted by people to make laws.

Ayuyu admitted in the plea deal that he asked Ryan to lie because he wanted to influence, obstruct, and impede the grand jury from returning an indictment against him for the seizure of the federally protected fruit bats.

Manglona said that Ayuyu continued to take actions to protect himself as when he was detained at the Department of Corrections, he was found in possession of a cell phone.

Manglona said there is even testimony that Ayuyu solicited and insisted with a DOC officer to provide him with a cell phone.

Had Ayuyu readily accepted responsibility in the fruit bat case, he wouldn't have been in court yesterday as his original case was only a misdemeanor, the judge said. Instead, the case escalated into a felony (obstruction of justice).

Despite being given an opportunity to correct the wrong, Ayuyu escalated his disregard of the law, Manglona said.

"I do find that incarceration is not only appropriate but essential," the judge said, underscoring the importance of promoting respect of the law.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe recommended a sentence of 41 months.

"He is lying to this day," said Backe, adding that the court should send a strong message to the community about respecting the law and that those who abuse their power should be punished.

Attorney David Lujan, counsel for Ayuyu in the obstruction of justice and cell phone cases, recommended 33 months in prison.

Lujan said that Ayuyu has pleaded guilty, is remorseful, and accepted responsibility for the crimes he committed.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Ayuyu in the fruit bat case, recommended a probation sentence for the misdemeanor offense. Berline said his client made several mistakes and that he's trying to correct them.

"He's a good man. He's a good person," Berline said. "This is a fundamentally good person."

On July 22, 2013, Ayuyu pleaded guilty to two charges relating to the smuggling of endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

On Sept. 30, 2013, the erstwhile independent senator from Rota resigned as a member of the 18th Senate.

CDA confident of recovering loan funds from Freedom Air

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If and when the court decides on the bankruptcy petition filed by Freedom Air, one of the company's creditors, the Commonwealth Development Authority, is confident it would be able to recover any and all obligations of the airline company.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan said the agency is a "secured creditor" that would be given priority by the court.

"CDA has priority lien on Freedom Air's assets, so we're a secured creditor. This means that whatever happens to this [bankruptcy] case, we're on the priority list of creditors that must be paid by the company. CDA has to be accommodated," said Sablan.

CDA loaned $900,000 to the airline company in March 2012, with a 7 percent interest per annum.

Sablan disclosed that prior to filing for bankruptcy in September last year, Freedom Air had been paying CDA the monthly interest. Those payments, however, stopped as soon as the carrier sought relief with the bankruptcy court.

Besides CDA, the bankrupt Freedom Air also owes the Commonwealth Ports Authority over $1.2 million in unpaid lease, passenger facility charges, and other fees. CPA, however, is an unsecured creditor, which means it has the lowest claim on the company's assets.

"That's the difference. If you are a secured creditor, your claim has to be paid off before any unsecured creditors," explained Sablan.

Last February, Freedom Air filed in Guam's bankruptcy court its opposition to a motion filed by the Office of the U.S. Trustee to dismiss the bankruptcy case. Instead, Freedom Air asked for a Washington, D.C.-based broker to sell the company. Freedom Air, which does business as Aviation Services Inc., also recently filed in court a proposed agreement between the airline and its broker.

The Office of the U.S. Trustee earlier filed a motion to dismiss Freedom Air's Chapter 11 petition, stating that the debtor is suffering from substantial and continuing losses since the start of the case and lacks a reasonable likelihood of being rehabilitated.

According to Sablan, CDA's counsel is on top of the issue and provides the board regular updates on the bankruptcy case.

CDA chief said the agency is holding first lien on Freedom Air's assets and the value of those assets, if liquidated, would be sufficient to pay off its obligations to CDA.

Sablan explained that when a company files for Chapter 11 reorganization, it must submit for court approval a plan on how it intends to settle all its obligations.

According to Sablan, once CDA successfully collects the principal loan plus interest, the money will be placed in the agency's loan revolving fund and would be made available for lending.

However, Sablan said that CDA wants to see the continued operation of the local carrier because its services are vital and beneficial to the CNMI.

Freedom Air's activities are now inactive in the CNMI after the company lost its aviation insurance coverage on March 8.

Pacific Aviation LLC earlier expressed its desire to acquire Freedom Air, with plans to rejuvenate the family-owned carrier, which has been in business for almost 40 years.

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SHEFA scholarship checks are now being disbursed on time

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Government scholars used to wait months in order to receive their checks. A different scenario now plays out at the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, with the timely disbursement of financial grants to scholars.

SHEFA administrator Merissa S. Rasa reported to the board during its recent meeting that the Department of Finance is now "very responsive" in issuing checks to scholars.

In fact, she said, there are only a few pending checks at Finance as of March 20.

According to Rasa, the grants distributed to scholars as of March 20 totaled $845,300 covering recipients for spring 2014. SHEFA's remaining fiscal year 2013 budget is approximately $1.1 million, which will be used for this spring 2014 semester.

For this semester, SHEFA received a total of 1,237 applications. The bulk came from college and university students here and abroad. Applications for this term include 305 new students, 80 returning recipients, and 852 ongoing students.

As of March 20, Rasa said that 437 of these applications have so far been approved. Denied applications total 793 while five applications remain pending. Two applications are up for appeal.

Rasa reported that 30 applications were received from students of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute. Of this number, 25 have been denied while two are pending for approval.

NMTI applicants include three from automotive, four from construction, four from culinary arts, seven from electrical, eight from hotel and restaurant management, and four from the mechanic program.

Though it is committed to providing assistance to NMTI students, SHEFA has yet to come up with a final policy for vocational and trade scholars.

SHEFA was created in 2004. It has three scholarship programs: grant-in-aid, field of study, and incentive awards. Its funding comes from poker license fees collected by the government. Each fiscal year, the program is budgeted $3 million.

SHEFA provides financial aid not only to undergraduates pursuing associate or baccalaureate degrees but also those who wish to pursue a master's or doctorate degree. All financial assistance are awarded twice a year: during the fall and spring terms.

CPA to revamp harbor rules

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority would soon revamp the existing rules and regulations governing the operation of the islands' seaports.

CPA executive director MaryAnn Lizama reported this to the board of directors, who were also informed about the creation of a panel that would spearhead the creation of these potential changes to the existing procedures.

"CPA will be revamping the harbor rules and regulations to update, change, and modify the current harbor rules to reflect and cater to our CNMI harbors," according to Lizama, who said that a seven-member committee was recently established to work on this project.

The members of the committee include seaport facilities chair Benigno Sablan; Saipan ports manager Christopher Tenorio; Lizama herself; Rota ports supervisor Rodney Taisacan; assistant Tinian ports manager Gerald Crisostomo; representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard; and the appointment of a counsel upon the completion and formation of the committee.

According to Lizama, a meeting date will be scheduled once all parties have been officially informed about their appointments to the panel.

Besides the harbor rules, also up for changes is the CPA's personnel rules and regulations.

Lizama disclosed that a meeting is expected to be scheduled soon for board members to hear the initial draft of the proposal.

Governor: Some $134M budget eyed for FY 2015

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said his proposed fiscal year 2015 budget is around $134 million but the number was still being finalized as of yesterday, the eve of his April 1 deadline to submit a new spending package to the Legislature. The current budget is only $123.4 million, which somehow brings the CNMI back to the 1990 level of $120 million.

» 2 divisions merge; Tinian, Rota get cuts, 2 other municipalities gain a little

No work hours cuts are planned but the administration expects agencies to continue to be prudent with their spending.

The governor said his proposed fiscal 2015 budget contains the consolidation of at least two divisions with overlapping functions and with similar skill sets of personnel.

After the governor met with the four municipal mayors yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores told *Saipan Tribune* that Saipan got an increase of over $300,000—from $1.345 million in 2014 to $1.7 million in the governor's proposed 2015 spending plan.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz separately said Tinian and Rota got budget cuts compared to the 2014 level. He said Tinian's budget is proposed at $5.5 million for 2015, down from $5.9 million in 2014.

"I'm very sad because Tinian also was cut close to half a million versus [the current] fiscal year," he said after emerging from the governor's council meeting. He said the Northern Islands also got a slight increase just like Saipan.

The governor, in an interview hours before the meeting with mayors, said under his proposed 2015 budget, the Division of Grounds and Maintenance under the Department of Public Works will be "merged with" the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

This comes a year after he initially proposed to privatize the services of the Division of Parks and Recreation, but doing so proved to be costly. DLNR and the administration thus looked for other ways to make the roads and tourist site maintenance services more cost-effective and more efficient.

"We think that maybe if we can consolidate the two activities—DPW Grounds and this [DLNR Parks and Rec], hopefully that would work out," he said.

Once the two divisions are consolidated, they will fall under DLNR.

DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios confirmed last night that the governor discussed the consolidation of the two agencies during Cabinet meetings.

"We will be pooling the resources together, consolidate the functions since they have almost the same resources and the personnel's skill sets are also the same," Palacios said in a phone interview.

In the 2014 budget year, the governor was able to successfully merge the Workforce Investment Agency with the Department of Labor, among other things.

The difference in the 2014 and 2015 budget is expected to add to the government's $27 million minimum payment to the retirement settlement trust fund for 2015.

In the 2014 budget, only $20 million was set aside for government employer contribution to the Retirement Fund but when the settlement agreement was finalized, the government still has to come up with an additional $5 million to meet the $25 million required payment this year. The governor hopes to address this by way of a 2014 supplemental budget submission to the Legislature.

Fiscal year 2015 is from Oct. 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2015.

While the governor has until today to submit his budget to the Legislature, the Legislature has until Sept. 30 to pass a budget or there will be a government shutdown by Oct. 1.

Mayor frets Dynasty owner might hold off Tinian plans

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz is worried that Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's new owner, Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., will no longer pursue building a new 1,000-room hotel, a 36-hole golf course, and a $5 million water park on Tinian if it applies for—and is granted—an exclusive license to operate a casino on Saipan.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Friday that the new owner of Tinian Dynasty is one of those parties he expects to apply for a Saipan casino license.

The Tinian mayor said yesterday he also got this information from the governor.

"I don't think they will leave Tinian because they already acquired Dynasty. My concern is the future expansion of the facilities on Tinian. They might place it on hold and say wait a minute—we don't have direct flights on Tinian, let's put it up on Saipan," Dela Cruz said after emerging from a meeting with the governor and other mayors.

Yesterday afternoon, a group of Korean businessmen waited in the governor's office building lobby on Capital Hill to meet with the governor and they are reportedly also interested in applying for a casino license.

The governor said two Hong Kong-based investor groups and at least one group from Korea are among those he expects to submit applications. Lawmakers and the governor met in the past few months with Hong Kong investors who expressed interest in investing close to $3 billion in tourism-related facilities in the CNMI.

But the identities of the exclusive casino license applicants could be known in 10 days or so, the governor said.

Mega Stars plans to build a 1,000-room hotel on Kastiyu, a scenic Tinian area atop Carolinas Plateau. The planned investment in the Puntan Kastiyu project alone is estimated at $200 million.

Tinian officials, including the mayor and the municipal council, asked that the Department of Public Lands to negotiate with Mega Stars to develop the Kastiyu property rather than issue a request for proposal, since Mega Stars has already proven its commitment to Tinian by acquiring Tinian Dynasty. The governor earlier said he prefers that DPL issue an RFP instead.

Dela Cruz said he has been asking the governor to develop the Tinian airport so that it can start getting direct international flights for Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and the island's tourism.

Meanwhile, the House transmitted to the governor yesterday the casino amendment bill that the House and Senate passed last week.

The amendment bill was based on the governor and lawmakers' agreement to address the problematic versions of the original bill that became Public Law 18-38, legalizing casino gaming on Saipan.

For years, casino gaming is legal only on Tinian and Rota. But the Senate passed for the first time in at least four years a House bill legalizing casino gaming on Saipan. Pro-casino lawmakers said "times have changed," citing the need to generate more revenues to meet the government's growing obligations such as restoring the 25 percent in retirees' pension.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CASINO RESORT DEVELOPER LICENSE

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Jude S. Hofschneider are soliciting proposals for the issuance of an exclusive Casino Resort Developer license ("Casino Developer License ") for the Island of Saipan. Proposals for a Casino Developer License must comply with all requirements of P.L 18-38, meet strict background requirements and provide acceptable evidence of sufficient technical and financial capacity. Prospective applicants should familiarize themselves with these requirements prior to submittal as the proposal requirements are extensive and require submission of an initial nonrefundable application fee of one million dollars ($1,000,000) and subsequent deposit of $30 million dollars by May 5th, 2014. The Casino Developer License will be for a forty (40) year period and qualified applications will be evaluated on three broad factors: (1) financial capacity of the applicant (40 points); and (2) proposed business plan (40 points); and (3) benefit to the community (20 points).

Element	Points
Financial Structure	40
Proposed business plan	40
Benefit to the community	20

In order for an application to be considered, it must be "qualified" by a thorough examination of officers, directors, principals, and associates to ensure the public trust and confidence of gaming in the Commonwealth. Applicants which fail to exhibit the highest standards of gaming, public confidence and integrity will not be considered for licensing. Applications must comply with requirements of the Request for Proposal which is available from the Office of the Governor, Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (670-237-2280). All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to the Office of the Governor via fax to (670-664-2408).

All proposals must be sealed and marked "Casino Resort Developer License" and in compliance with the request for proposal and submitted to:

Office of the Governor, Eloy S. Inos
Caller Box 10007
Juan Sablan Memorial Building – Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and proposers bear all risk concerning delivery. All proposals become the property of the Commonwealth.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ELECTRONIC GAMING SITE OPERATOR LICENSES

Addendum Number 1

The Commonwealth request for proposals for gaming site operator is amended to provide that applications will be accepted beginning on March 31, 2014. Applications may be submitted on or after March 31, 2014 and will be reviewed by the Commonwealth in the order received. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement at 670-664-2375

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Amount from program	Reprogram to
2013	579	Public Facilities	Expansion of the Division of Youth Services Shelter	Ongoing	$71,375.00	
2013	Assigned upon approval	Public Facilities	Purchase of Fire Protection Equipment for CNMI Fire Divisions	New		$71,375.00
Total					**$71,375.00**	**$71,375.00**

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., April 30, 2014, at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Ms. Jeannie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/Marcie M. Tomokane

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Pork Spareribs $23.49 20 LBS.

Baby Backribs $21.49 10 LBS.

Whole Chicken $42.99 30 LBS.

Ground Beef $12.49 5 LBS.

Ground Beef $22.99 10 LBS.

Ground Pork $22.49 10 LBS.

Miller Sausage $16.99

Chamorro Sausage $4.79

Chorizos $16.99 3 LBS.

Bar S Ham $18.99

Bar S Hotdog $1.29

Bar S Bacon $4.49

Brown N Serve Sausage $1.69 S/B

Tilapia $1.09 /LB.

Milk Fish $1.69 /LB.

Peeled Shrimp $3.59 /PKG.

Sea Wave Calamari $1.99 /LB.

Mixed Vegetables $2.99 2.5 LB.

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Diamond G Rice $27.99 50 LBS.

Lotus Jasmine Rice $23.99 50 LBS.

Spam $2.35 12 OZ.

Black Label $1.79 12 OZ.

Corned Beef Hash $1.99 15 OZ.

Beef Stew $1.69 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili No Beans $1.89 15 OZ.

Hormel Chili with Beans $1.69 15 OZ.

Ox Palm Corned Beef $3.19 EA.

Chicken Noodles $0.99 EA.

Tuna (All Kinds) $1.59 EA.

Vienna Sausage $0.59 EA.

Lemon Powder $5.49 EA.

Kimchee Base $6.49 EA.

Tabasco $6.99 12 OZ.

Del Monte Pasta Sauce $1.49 EA.

Nestle Carnation Milk $1.29 12 OZ.

Del Monte Ketchup $4.69 64 OZ.

Mayonnaise $10.49

Kikkoman Soy Sauce $4.69 3.6 L

Fresco Veg. Oil $9.99 GAL.

AVO Veg. Oil $9.99 GAL.

5 Gallon Oil $31.99

Teptip Coconut Milk $0.99 13.02

Del Monte Whole Corn $0.99 15 OZ.

Vlasic Pickles $7.99 GAL.

M.Y. San Happy Time $7.99

Duncan Hines Cake Mix $1.99

Nestle Coffee Mate $8.49 50 OZ.

Folgers Coffee $11.99 33 OZ.

Coffee Mix $7.99 100pcs.

White Sugar $2.79 2 KG

Argo Corn Starch $1.19 16oz.

Kellogs Cereal Family Size $12.99 52 OZ.

General Mills Cereal Family Size $8.99 38.3 OZ.

Nong Shim Bowl Noodle $8.99 BOX

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Onion $0.69 /LB

Potato $0.99 /LB

Garlic $0.99 5 PCS.

Ginger $1.69 /LB

Orange $1.09 /LB

Fuji Apple $1.49 /LB

Extra Large Eggs $2.79 /DOZ.

U.S. Banana $1.29 /LB

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Sparkle Clean Water $5.99 330ML./CASE

Sunkist $7.99 BOX

Coca-Cola $16.99 CASE

Foremost $21.99 CASE

Purex $3.99 50 OZ.

Gain Powder $16.99 120 LOADS

Clorox $2.69 30 OZ. $3.69 60 OZ. $5.99 GAL.

Diamond Foil $7.99 200 sq.ft.

Max Butane Gas Red Color $22.99 Case

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Chicken Leg Quarter	$4.99
Chicken Nuggets	$11.99
Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Turkey Tail	$6.99
Beef Stew	$12.99
Beef Ribeye	$15.99
Beef Short Ribs	$19.99
Beef Shank	$12.99
Beef Back Ribs	$7.99
Beef Feet	$4.99
Beef Ox Tail	$15.99
Pork Chop	$11.99
Pork Bellies	$11.99
Pork Butt	$9.99
Pork Adobo Cut	$9.99
Pork Hocks	$7.99
Pork Spareribs	$6.49
Pork Feet	$6.99
Mackerel Fish	$6.79
Mackerel Pike	$5.99
Chicken Wings	$12.99

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Saipan supporters join call for grant of TPS for PH

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Filipino community urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the White House to grant full TPS designation for the Philippines.

Approximately 40 Filipinos on Saipan availed of free calls to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security comment line during the four-hour Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines campaign organized by the US Pinoys for Good Governance–Marianas chapter in collaboration with the National Federation of Filipino American Associations–Marianas chapter at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe last Thursday, March 27, according to Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of the USP4GG and NaFFAA Marianas chapters for CNMI and Guam.

That day had been designated by advocacy groups as a national day of community action to call in for the designation of Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines.

To easily facilitate the calls, the groups' members and volunteers assisted the callers by dialing the DHS comment line number and providing a typed message to be delivered to the DHS comment line. Flyers were also distributed to the participants to encourage others to call DHS and the White House for the TPS.

" It is overwhelming to know that our *kababayans* (compatriots), U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens really care by participating in this community action for TPS. They were very anxious and interested to know more about TPS. It shows that they care about the Philippines and the Filipino people," said Lamkin.

Under U.S. immigration law, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of State, may designate a country, or portions of a country, for TPS when conditions exist—such as an ongoing armed conflict or an environmental disaster—that temporarily prevents the country's nationals in the U.S. from returning safely.

Once a country receives TPS designation, nationals of that country residing in the U.S. would not be deportable and may receive temporary legal status that allows them to receive employment authorization and even permission to travel abroad.

Lamkin extends her appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Ronald Lamkin, Lucita Torres Reyes, Jovy Brondo, Corazon San Gabriel, Emma Lumbad, Minda Domingo, Alito Canazo, Dennis Quiroz, *Marianas Variety, Saipan Tribune*, El Shaddai Charismatic Group on Saipan, Maxima Bigalbal, Perla Bermudez, Gus Loste, Nicole Joy Manabat, Raul Brondo, Stephanie Lumbad, Oliver Lumbad, Rudy Armenta, Division of Parks and Recreation, director Eli Cabrera, and the CNMI community. ***(PR)***

About 50 visitors watch Saipan Awaodori Team

About 50 tourists and customers of Kinpachi Restaurant and other businesses around Paseo de Marianas watched the Saipan Awaodori Team perform their traditional Japanese dance last Saturday evening.

Passersby also stopped for awhile to watch the performance of the team's 26 members and nine musicians.

Tourists from nearby hotels shot videos and took pictures of the performances and were amazed to see the children and adults performing one of Japan's traditional dances.

One Japanese tourist who identified himself only as Mr. Kawahara, who was with his wife and two sons, said he is surprised that the dancers are not Japanese. Kawahara is from Tokyo, Japan. His son took pictures alongside his mother who videotaped the first performance of the night.

The group staged two performances that ended at 8:30pm.

Kinpachi Restaurant owner Misako Kamata said that she is happy to support the Saipan Awaodori Team.

"I'm surprised at the [the new members] catching up. We are really happy, even with our new members. They are not Japanese but I'm grateful that they are dancing. Also, the kids know and recognize the importance of tourism," Kamata said.

The Saipan Awaodori Team is also sponsored by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Duty Free Saipan, and Docomo Pacific.

Sonia Siwa, coordinator of the Saipan Awaodori Team, said they are still accepting new recruits for the team. The group is now busy rehearsing for a planned appearance at this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Kamata said the group practices on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 4pm to 5:30pm, at the Koblerville Youth Center. Registration is free of charge. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Young dancers of the Saipan Awaodori Team chant as they perform this traditional Japanese dance. JAYSON CAMACHO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 1, 2006

'Use Compact money for renovation, not pay hikes'

Rather than use the Compact impact money to implement salary and merit increases for teachers and administrators, principals in the Public School System would rather have the funding used to renovate dilapidated school buildings in the Commonwealth. This was the consensus of the 20 public school principals, according to Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas, after PSS federal programs adviser Tim Thornburgh and other PSS officials presented them several options on what to do with the money during Thursday's regular principals' meeting at the Pacific Resource for Education and Learning of the Marianas High School. Barcinas said Thornburgh presented them several options and scenarios as to where they can use the Compact money that was reportedly allocated to PSS by the Fitial administration.

Revenue shortfall hits Tinian, Rota airports

The Rota and Tinian airports sustained revenue shortfall during the first four months of the fiscal year, even as gross airport revenues increased due to improved passenger traffic to the islands. Rota airport's gross revenue improved to $147,719 compared with the previous fiscal year's $137,725, but the slight growth failed to pull up its net revenue due to higher personnel and operation costs. Commonwealth Ports Authority comptroller George Palican said the airport's expenses increased by $46,455 mainly due to the retirement of some employees.

April 1, 2007

'This is good news'

"This is good news," said a delighted Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan T. Guerrero upon learning of the public support of Democrat senators Jeff Bingaman, Daniel Inouye, and Daniel Akaka for the CNMI on the minimum wage hike issue. "Our good friends from both the U.S. Senate and House have the support of our Commonwealth. We are grateful for this support," said Guerrero yesterday. The three senators have engaged the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations chair, Robert C. Byrd, in a colloquy to push for a change in the language of H.R. 1591 relating to minimum wage hike in U.S. insular areas, to ensure that both the CNMI and American Samoa be not required to comply with the federal minimum wage immediately.

1,100 walk with the Red Cross

As early as 5am yesterday, hundred of people were already milling around at the 4H Building in Susupe for the 21 Annual Red Cross Walkathon. By 6am, everyone was already trudging along the length of the Beach Road Pathway, walking north to the Century Insurance Centre in Garapan and then back to the 4H Building. By mid-morning, a total of some 1,100 members of the community have participated in this annual ritual that has become as much an annual habit as a fundraising event for the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

April 1, 2008

Daycares to DCCA: Pay up

When supervision of the daycare centers in the CNMI was transferred from the Public School System to the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs in January, one of the conditions was for DCCA to pay the daycare centers promptly. That promise, however, has not been kept, with DCCA now behind two months in disbursing payments to the islands' daycare centers. That delay in the receipt of payments has prompted a number of daycares in the CNMI to arrive at a critical decision: They will shut their doors to recipients of childcare certificates until they receive the payments owed them.

2008 aviation conference draws record participants

The 2008 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop kicked off yesterday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan with the three-day conference breaking the record for turnout, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Lee Cabrera. Cabrera, in a telephone interview, said the first day of the workshop saw more than 176 participants register for the event. "It was an excess of 176 registrants. We understand from Barry Brayer [Federal Aviation Administration Micronesia Program manager] that it was more or less a record as far as the turnout was concerned."

Political status bill now heads to governor

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 6-1, the Senate passed Thursday a House bill creating a Second Marianas Political Status Commission that would examine whether the CNMI people still desire "continuing in a political union" with the United States under the Covenant. The bill now heads to Gov. Eloy S. Inos for action, just days after the CNMI marked the 38th year since it became a part of America.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan), both U.S. armed forces veterans, abstained from voting. Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) voted "no."

"I don't have a problem in the CNMI's relationship with the United States right now but I don't have a problem with this process [of review], too," Reyes said at the Senate session.

House Bill 18-112, HD1, authored by Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), passed the House on Dec. 19.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said yesterday that the governor's position on changing the CNMI's relationship with the U.S. is separate from the intent of the bill.

"The bill will basically examine whether the people of the CNMI want a relationship different from the current. Governor Inos will take a look at this bill once it reaches his desk," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

In the House, members debated at length the CNMI's political relationship with the United States and federal control over local minimum wage, immigration, and certain areas for military uses before passing HB 18-112, HD1.

Proponents of the bill said it "doesn't hurt" to re-examine the CNMI-U.S. political relationship, while others said Covenant Section 902 discussions could be the better venue. Still, others said instead of passing a bill creating a commission, the Legislature should place the question on the ballot for voters to decide, before creating a commission.

The 16-page bill seeks to create a Second Marianas Political Status Commission, which will have broad authority to review, study, examine, and conduct public political education and awareness to assist the commission in accomplishing its responsibilities.

Specifically, the commission would examine the present political relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States.

It would also determine whether the CNMI people are still in favor of continuing in "political union" with the U.S. pursuant to the Covenant, and whether or not they prefer some other political status options that would enable them to fulfill their hope and aspirations of full, meaningful, and a well-defined self-government status.

Under the bill, the governor has to reprogram money to fund the commission up to $100,000.

NO TO PAGAN MILITARIZATION JAYSON CAMACHO

Members and supporters of the Northern Island community pose for a photo after a two-hour town hall meeting on March 26 at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. These former residents of the Northern Islands and those who have ties to the area came to a consensus that they will file a class action lawsuit against the U.S. military if the planned militarization of Pagan pushes through.

More residents avail of WICHE programs

The Northern Marianas College issued a statement yesterday to clarify an article that was printed in the *Saipan Tribune* on March 25, 2014, that stated that only two students from the CNMI had "availed of the WICHE" program.

WICHE stands for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and the CNMI's membership in the organization allows CNMI residents to be eligible for discounted tuition rates at various public colleges and universities in the western U.S.

According to Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services at Northern Marianas College, although the precise numbers are not known yet because the program is relatively new, more students are already taking advantage of the discounted tuition rates afforded by CNMI's membership in WICHE.

"We already have some preliminary numbers, and based on what's been reported to the college, students are already making their limited dollars go further because of the discounts they are receiving or will be receiving through WICHE," said Pangelinan.

According to Rose Pangelinan, administrator of the CNMI Scholarship Office, her office is aware of at least 42 students who are currently enrolled at schools that provide the WICHE discount for school year 2013-2014.

"We already know of some students and their families who are each saving about $8,000 annually," said Leo Pangelinan. "If we apply this amount to those 40 or so students and their families who are receiving the CNMI Scholarship, the savings can be up to $320,000."

Of course, the savings vary depending on the institutions and universities where the students are taking classes, Leo Pangelinan added.

Leo Pangelinan also stated that there may be a number of students who are not receiving CNMI scholarship funds but taking advantage of the WICHE discounts either under the Western Undergraduate Exchange program or other WICHE programs. The WUE program allows residents from the CNMI to be eligible to pay no more than 150 percent of the resident tuition at participating two- and four-year colleges and universities.

The savings can be quite considerable. Through the WUE program, for example, CNMI residents are now eligible for consideration to pay the WUE rate of $7,695 at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas instead of the nonresident tuition of $19,040, a savings of about $11,000 per year.

According to WICHE representatives, the average WUE student saved $7,800 (average for two- and four-year institutions).

Additionally, Leo Pangelinan emphasized that there are current high school seniors who have already been accepted into colleges and universities in the western U.S. and who have already been notified that they qualify for the WICHE discounted rate.

"My daughter was recently accepted to Southern Utah University and was informed that she qualifies for the WICHE rate, which means our family will be saving thousands of dollars," said Becky Sablan, parent of a Marianas High School Senior. "The savings will be very helpful."

Leo Pangelinan also stated that the NMC is engaged in conducting outreach workshops and other activities to promote the WICHE program. He said that hundreds of students have shown interest in taking advantage of the tuition discount programs under WICHE.

For more information, visit www.marianas.edu or visit the WICHE website at www.wiche.edu. ***(NMC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP14-HSEM-078

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 15, 2014 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"AIRCONDITIONING REPAIR FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY-EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ON APRIL 04, 2014, AT THE CNMI EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER, CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN, MP 96950. ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS THAT DO NOT HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SOLICITATION.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP14-BECQ-086

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2014 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"OPERATOR TRAINING FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS – CLASS A/B OPERATORS FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASATAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 25, 2014 AT www.deq.gov.mp AS WELL AS AT THE BECQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, SAIPAN, OR ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED BY E-MAIL TO reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 14, 2014.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Is inviting qualifies individuals to apply for the following position:

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Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, April 04, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-075
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF AN OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.
T
The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB14-DPS/OHSR-075
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 29, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF AN OCCUPANT PROTECTION/CHILD RESTRAINT TRAILER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, ROTA DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

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/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner of DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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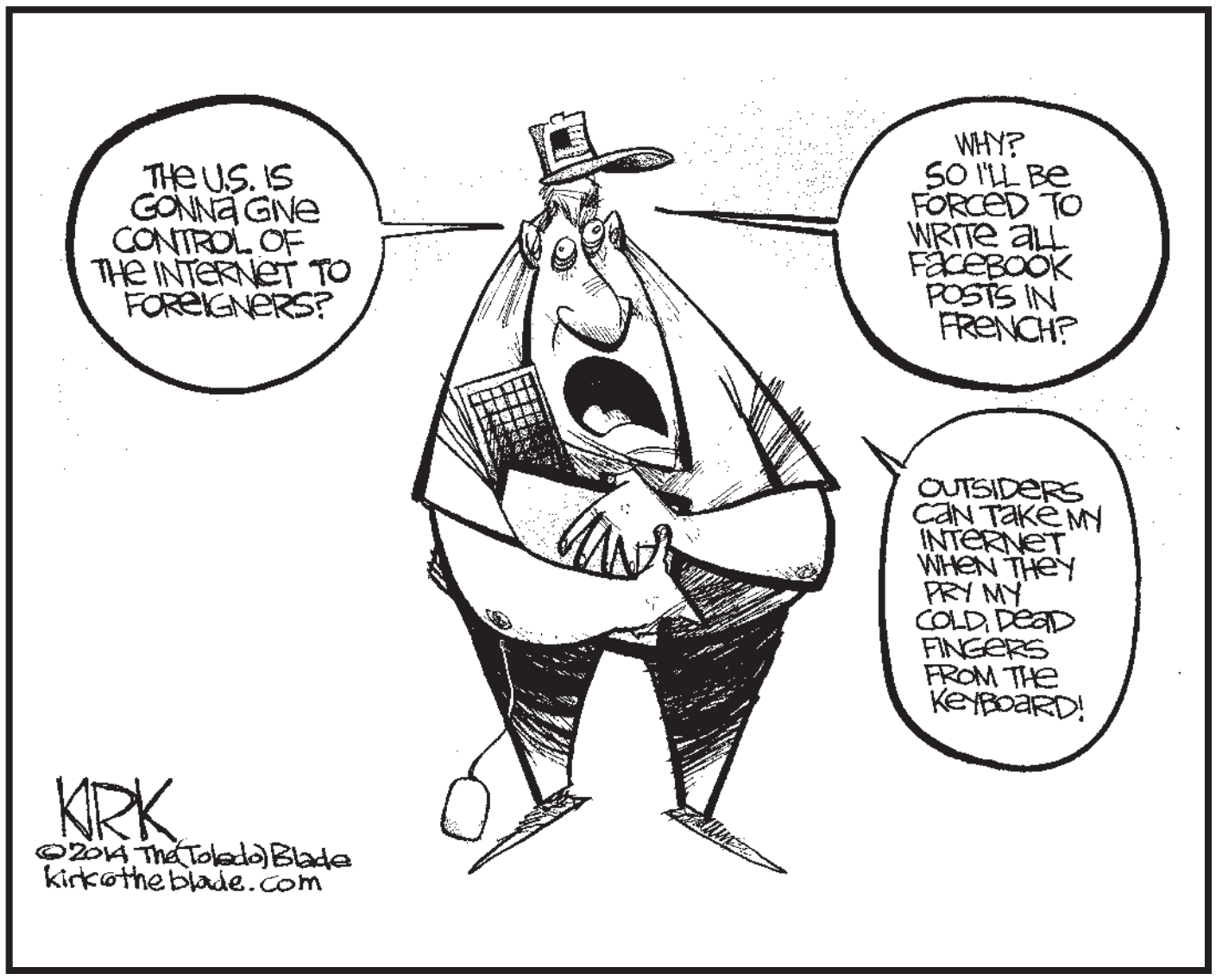
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association


THE U.S. IS GONNA GIVE CONTROL OF THE INTERNET TO FOREIGNERS?
WHY? SO I'LL BE FORCED TO WRITE ALL FACEBOOK POSTS IN FRENCH?
OUTSIDERS CAN TAKE MY INTERNET WHEN THEY PRY MY COLD, DEAD FINGERS FROM THE KEYBOARD!
KIRK
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EDITORIAL

US needs to cut the cost of prison

Among the casualties of a failed war on drugs that has spanned more than three decades are bloated prisons that cost the nation nearly $90 billion a year. With only 5 percent of the world's population, the United States holds 25 percent of its prisoners; more than 2 million people are locked up in this country.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission, which sets penalty guidelines for federal judges, is considering changes that would shorten average sentences for nonviolent drug offenders by roughly one year—to 51 months from 63 months. That would result in a 17 percent sentence reduction for the average offender.

The changes would not affect the 1.6 million people who are locked up in state prisons around the country. They would cover only the 215,000 prisoners in the federal system, half of whom are serving time for drug crimes.

The Justice Department estimates that the proposed changes would lower the federal prison population by 6,500 inmates over the next five years. That's a small step toward a more cost-effective and just criminal justice system.

Members of the sentencing commission should approve the changes. If they do, the new guidelines will take effect in November. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. has endorsed the plan, which several Republicans in Congress also support.

Earlier this year, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the bipartisan Smarter Sentencing Act, the first major reconsideration of federal mandatory minimum drug sentencing laws since the Nixon administration. In a related move, Mr. Holder is pushing for eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug crimes.

Some prosecutors oppose the proposed changes. They argue that saving money should not influence public safety policy, and that the sentencing reductions would undermine their ability to pressure low-level drug offenders to cooperate in cases against drug kingpins.

Neither argument is compelling. It's true that strapped state budgets drive some criminal justice reforms. Pennsylvania spends $1.9 billion a year on prisons—more than it spends on higher education. In the real world, costs always play a role in public policy.

As to the sentences, modestly lowering federal prison terms for drug offenses will not impede criminal investigations. People want to avoid prison sentences, whether for four years or 10. Jacking up penalties simply to pressure defendants to cooperate is neither practical nor ethical.

Since the late 1970s, the U.S. prison population has skyrocketed to morally unacceptable and economically unsustainable levels. Three decades of misguided policies won't reverse themselves overnight. The proposed changes in federal sentencing guidelines, however, would be a big step toward helping the nation change course.

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Dynasties aren't what's best for democracy

By JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN
Los Angeles Times

Jonathan Zimmerman teaches history and education at New York University. His most recent book is Small Wonder: The Little Red Schoolhouse in History and Memory.

A few years ago, I found myself sitting on an airplane next to a gentleman from Egypt. Talk quickly turned to the upheaval in his country, where the so-called Arab Spring was in full bloom.

"We want a real democracy," he told me, "not like yours." When I pressed him to elaborate, he shot back with a question of his own. "How many times have you voted," he asked, "when someone named 'Bush' or 'Clinton' wasn't running?"

The answer, I sheepishly admitted, was once: in 2008. Before that—going back to 1980, the first year I cast a ballot—every single presidential ticket featured someone from one of those two families.

That's not good for our image overseas, or for our democracy at home. We tell the world that we're a land of opportunity, where anyone can grow up to be the president. Then we limit ourselves to a handful of political dynasties.

Lately, there's been a lot of talk of another Clinton versus Bush contest. With her huge fundraising apparatus and name recognition, Hillary Rodham Clinton is the hands-down Democratic front-runner for 2016. Meanwhile, Jeb Bush seems to be laying the groundwork to capture the GOP nomination.

Of course, neither Clinton nor Bush has announced any such plan. But the "super PAC" Ready for Hillary has already raised $4 million simply to "encourage" her to run. And Bush is canvassing the country like a presidential candidate, visiting three states over the next few weeks to campaign for fellow Republicans.

Of course, they're hardly the first American politicians to exploit family connections. Our sixth president, John Quincy Adams, was the son of our second one; Benjamin Harrison's grandfather William spent a very brief time in the White House half a century earlier; Franklin D. Roosevelt was preceded by Theodore, his distant cousin.

More recently, consider New York Govs. Cuomo (Mario and Andrew) or the Al Gores, Sr. and Jr., who served as senators from Tennessee. And then there are the Kennedys, who made no bones about their dynastic ambitions.

Joseph P. Kennedy drafted his son John into politics after the death of JFK's older brother. And when JFK vacated his Massachusetts Senate seat to enter the White House, his father anointed the youngest Kennedy, 30-year-old Teddy, as his successor. "Look, I spent a lot of money for that Senate seat," Joseph Kennedy said. "It belongs in the family."

But we've never had a time when presidential politics is as dominated by a few select bloodlines. That limits the pool of eligible national leaders, which is bad enough. But it also makes it harder for them to govern once they get to the White House, where they must simultaneously demonstrate fealty to the family and independence from it.

That's the story of George W. Bush, who frequently pulled out his birth certificate during his first political campaign—a failed bid for Congress in 1978—to show that his middle name was different from his father's. "Would you like me to run as Sam Smith?" a frustrated Bush asked. "The problem is I can't abandon my background."

Once he became president, though, Bush also had to prove he was his own man. His invasion of Iraq was at least partially motivated by his father's refusal to occupy it during the Persian Gulf War. But it also appeared to be aimed at exacting revenge on Saddam Hussein, who had plotted to assassinate the elder Bush. "This is the guy who tried to kill my dad," Bush told a campaign rally, six months before the Iraq invasion. Never mind that President Clinton had earlier ordered a missile strike on Iraq to retaliate for the plot. This was about family.

And make no mistake, another Clinton presidency would be about family too. One way or another, everything Hillary Clinton does will address her husband's legacy. His fundraising acumen powered her ascent into the Senate, and he'd obviously be a key player in her presidency, just like she was in his.

As for Jeb Bush, nobody will forget that he was governor of Florida when a highly controversial recount there catapulted his brother into the White House. Bush has said that he moved from Texas to Florida to "get out from (his) father's shadow."

Yet he'll never be able to escape it, or his brother's.

"Dynasty, shmynasty," Jeb Bush quipped in 2000, dismissing the concept. But at least one member of the family recognizes its dangers. "If we can't find more than two or three families to run for office, that's silly," Jeb's mother, Barbara, said in an interview in January. "The Kennedys, Clintons, Bushes—there are just more families than that."

She's right. It's time to send a different one to the White House. That's what a real democracy would do.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gi Hechuran Kantata

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

I sentimenton tautau-ta `oppan gi kanta-ta siha deste tiempon antigu. Deste na`chaleg, na`pinite, puminite, mana`pinite, na`mahalañg, na`magof, na`bubu, mayute`, man-yute` yan todu klasen sentimentu siha man-gaige gi sunidun natibu.

Ilelegña un` kanta pot man-hassu na i kettu yan katma na hanom siña un` espehos hau mismu `sino un` li`e klaru i pilan gi lañget; i pas na hinassomu sumede hau lumi`e asuntomu klaru; i man-hassu gi halom katma muna` klaru i asuntu. Mauleg na fina` etsisiu diariu piot gi lemlem tautau `nai esta siña hau dumeskansa. Kontodu manayuyot, libianu.

Ñahlalañg hinassomu, klaru un` li`e haf" mamamaila`, libianu un` pasensiaye asuntu pot para u felis disposisionmu. Mas lokue` homlu` para ayu i man-gaige esta gi sisienta años. Mauleg na u fan eyag man-malag i silensiu na patte gi hinasson niha pot siha mismu.

Hagas bisioghu man-atan mas ke me`nan guieñg-hu gi asuntun linahyan siha deste 1968. Hu guaguadog haf` i estoria gi halom estoria. Ginen este na offisiu `nai hu husga todu kottina ni mana`fanunog guine. Gai mutmorasion sa` debi un` chule` i tinas yan magahet na infotmasion.

Enfin, esta pa`gu ti komprendiyon manadan kanta pot si "neni" ni achamegai yan dibutsiu. Pues manu guenau siha na kanta `nai gaige fietmente si neni? Ayu mas na kanta na`chaleg i man-isague ni tumuge` na guiya ma-isague. Dios mihu na che`chu` tramposu yan muron.

Ileghu na mauleg lokue` i mantitige` kanta yan sotfa na umachalapon asuntun niha guatu gi flores tanota, i asut na tasita, gatbon isa, pajaru siha gi aire, milag uchan ginen i sabana, yan otru siha attikulu pot para ta suhaye otru kantan dakun pot si neni. Maila` ta fatta tano`ta yan tautau-ta siha gi tinige` kanta pot siha.

Un` hobensita kumanta pot hagas kanton unai `nai dumañkulugue` antes. Ilegña na pa`gu solu memoriasña `nai gaige i lugat pot mabende para hotel. Lau achogha` mabende, i espiritun mañainaña sumaga guihe na kanton unai sa` ginen siha ayu na pidason tanu`. Na`pinite na sentimentu i maliñgun lugat ni hagas plasetña humugandu yan otru siha manhoben.

Plaset mamoble

Entalu` kantun unai Susupe todu kattan esta fina` sisonyan giya Puntan Muchot (Micro Beach) hagas lugat megai na mamoble antes. I famaguon niha man-e-pañglau para mantension amotsan taloane `sino sena. Entre ennau pat mabende kineni` niha para usun eskuela.

Hu chage umepañglau guihe na lugat antes. Megai pañglao echuñg yan tunas. Katdun pañglau gumu`ot megai familia guihe na tiempu. Gaige ha` lokue` i tasi `nai guaha na in` fagcha`e parientes man-chechuchulu. `In sipog ham lokue` pot para bai`n fan mapatte namame guihan. Ai na che`chu kabron lau siempre un` eyag luma`la` kumu patgon poble.

■ ■ ■

Iya Magpi` yan Chacha lokue` lugat ausiliu `nai natibu manrikohe bronse para u bende pot mantension familia. I Lichiñg giya Magpi` piligru tinadoñgña lau kontodu man-biha fumatoigue pot animu. Gai grasia lokue` i tautau-ta guihe na lugat antes. Lau bai` pega gi un` banda estake klaru hu tuñgu haf` siha ennau na finapos tautau-ta.

■ ■ ■

Chatsaga i tanu` gi hinanau i Navy guine. I natibu ha falague fanguaaluan yan tasi. Sumen chatsaga ayu na tiempu. Lau gi lemlem tautau, magof i natibu gi hafa ha kusecha ginen gualu` niha yan pineskan tasi. Pas yan trañkilu i señgsoñg siha. Metgot i sensian komunida gi entalu` familia. Kulan maliñgu este na sensia pa`gu na tiempu.

Otru siha asunto-ta

Sessu huli`e finattun bisita yan tutuhon konbetsasion mañainahu. Deste pugua`, kafe, amtau yan finu na liñguahe ni grasiosu tutuhon konbetsasion ayu na inasoda`. Kustumbreta man-ana`e tat kumu fina` totche `sino kinisechan gualu`. Ta pechiñg ya ta entrega i gai gima` pot finatotta.

I finu` niha yan doblada kumone`yu` pot kase mamposyu` bastus. Hana` ma`aggemyu` ayu siha na konbetsasion kontodu ineyag che`chu` tautau. Hu sen agradese lokue` i bendision mañaina mame piot ayu siha i appenas man-mattu. Manñge` na mañaina gi todu mondun linala` niha. Taya` pustura sa` todu kinalamten niha fotmat yan diberas.

■ ■ ■

Un` tiempu, sumugu`-yu` gi lanchun un` sainahu. Fuera de hana` miriendayu` ha pega gulusina, golai yan tinala` katne gi balutanhu antes de bai` tulusyu` tatte giya hame. Estegue` siha gi hagas kustumbren tanu` i mampos hasan tali`e na tiempu buente pot megai manaigue gi fangualuan. Megaiña kase mangaige pa`gu gi McDonalds yan Shirleys ke gualu` familia.

■ ■ ■

Hu huñgog na man-espipiha Hollywood tautau para "secret agents" para un` mubi (movie). Masoda` 31 ginen Marianas mankualifikau lau siempre umahusga kau todu man-parehu man-achadakon yan mauleg gi che`chu` sekretu. Dios mihu!

■ ■ ■

Antes de uma-utut sueddon manritirau, guaha dididi` hu popo`lu fahan "Happy Meals" gi McDonald's para i ñietu yan ñieta siha. Kara` na biahe. Pues ayu ha` guaha pa`gu i very "Unhappy Meal" ni ginen kusinan grandma. Dios mihu!

The miseducation of Mr. Fletcher

By FRANCISCO DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a letter the author sent to House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero and Senate President Ralph DLG. Torres on March 25, 2014. He requested for its publication in the Saipan Tribune. Due to its length, it is being published in two parts.

Second of a two-part series

Office space, locations, and furnishings

Mr. Fletcher points out again, that these occurred before he became executive director and that he supports these decisions because CUC is running a $100-million-a-year operation. Really! Again, he states the CUC has been able to improve operational efficiency and improve the administrative facilities, all for less money than CUC was paying before. I just wonder if any of these savings from the efficiency and improvements can be passed on to the consumers?

Mr. Fletcher points out that the Dandan lease agreement was renewed. The former lease amount was $21,870 per month for about 23,000 sq. ft. The new lease agreement now is at a cost of $13,884 per month for 25,711 sq. ft. So as one does the math there is a saving of $7,986 per month while realizing additional square feet area of 2,711 sq. ft. So with this savings per month with added square footage, were the savings passed on to consumers?

Mr. Fletcher also points out that CUC made a solid business decision in the transaction. I just wonder whether Mr. Fletcher understands that the line crew are at best 80 to 95 percent of the time not utilizing these office spaces and could have remained at Dandan building for meetings and briefings before the day begins. With the additional 2,711 sq. ft. of space, this will be more than ample area for such meetings and briefs. This was solid decision alright.

Mr. Fletcher states that furnishings or 66 percent were used and hardly would be called "lavish." These furnishings were purchased from "furniture liquidation companies." Furniture liquidation companies? I did not know there was such a company on island. I wonder if Mr. Fletcher can advise us to where these companies are, as I'm sure CUC customers are inquiring by now.

Nepotism

Mr. Fletcher states that the allegations of nepotism is false and unsubstantiated. Did Mr. Charles "Chuck" Warren, your CFO at CUC, sign off on his wife's personnel action? Fletcher claims that he did not order or even request Warren wife's immediate supervisor or manager not to have Mrs. Warren work during weekends because it was family time. Should the committee on PUTC hold a subpoena hearing where you, Mr. Warren, and others are sworn in to tell the truth and nothing but the truth?

Failure to terminate employee

The simple fact of the matter is that the employee in question was found guilty by a court of law and to this day remains on the payroll of CUC. How then does this look to the other employees within CUC? Clearly, Public Law 16-17 was very clear on provision, Article 5, Section 8154 (4 CMC sec. 8154). This specific sections states: "Civil and Criminal penalties. A member of the board, officer, counsel, employee, or agent of the corporation, or any other person who embezzles, abstracts, or willfully misapplies any money, funds, credits or securities of the corporation, or who does any other act with intent to injure or defraud the corporation, or who accept any unlawful consideration which relates to his duties under this chapter, or any individual who, with like intent, conspires with, aids, or abets any person in any violation of this section, shall be dismissed from employment, permanently barred from reemployment with the corporation, civilly liable for any losses that their actions caused the corporation, fined not more than $2,000, imprisoned for not more than five years, or both."

For some reason, this law was not followed. CUC has in-house legal counsels such as Mr. Sirok and Ms. Fisher and maybe others who earn supposedly $114,999 per year, but you left this up to the assistant AG. Why?

Mr. Fletcher claims in his letter to me dated Jan. 15, 2014, that he had made the Attorney General's Office aware of 4 CMC Sec. 8154 but yet the employee was prosecuted under 6 CMC Sec 1609. As the executive director, this incident transpired not prior to Fletcher becoming executive director. Why did he sit back and watch as an individual stole services from the corporation? Why is this person still getting paid a salary?

Telesource change order No. 5

Again, Mr. Fletcher responds by saying that this agreement was made prior to his becoming executive director. What is before the commission (CPUC) now is how this change order No. 5 is to be financed. You guessed it. It will be coming in the form of another rate increase to CUC customers. What strikes me is the fact that when the CPUC public hearing was made, Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Warren were silent on the issue. This only confirms that they were in favor of this financing to pay Telesource and were not acting in the best interests of the customers of CUC.

Water and wastewater electric charges

Mr. Fletcher denies that the water electric charge is twice the actual water usage charges. Mr. Fletcher should go to his own website at www.cucgov.org and look at your rate table for water. It states in part at the top the following:…the new Water Electric Charge will be $3.72 per 1,000 gallons, increased from $3.54, effective March 5, 2013.

Now if you go down on the same page to where it says Volume Rate Per 1,000 Gallons,

Residential & Commercial	
0-3,000	0.72
3,001-15,000	1.74
15,001-30,000	2.68

So let's say that a customer was billed for water at a 10,000 gallon usage. 10,000 water usage times $1.74 equals $17.40 (10 x $1.74 = $17.40).

Now for water electric: It will be 10 x $3.72 = $37.20)

And yet he still denies that it is twice the amount for water usage vs. water electric? The schedule of Water Charges and Rates are right there on the CUC website. Fletcher should read it!

By the way, the Guam Waterworks Authority charges a flat rate for residential sewer (wastewater) of $26.61 per month. CUC charges about the same for water usage and sewer charges. Again, you can go to www.guamwaterworks.org

So in closing, it appears that Mr. Fletcher is trying to wash his hands by denying each "whereas clause" of H.R. 18-15 but let me provide some points the Mr. Fletcher should consider before I close.

■ The buyback of PMIC (Power Plant 4) was supposed to save CUC because now CUC will not have to purchase fuel on a regular basis. So where is the savings?

■ The planned 4-year, $75 million per year ($300 million) fuel purchase. Is CUC really going through with this? Is CUC really trying to tie the CUC consumers to this contract? Doesn't CUC have any alternative plans to replace the diesel engines with a more efficient baseload plant?

■ CUC appears to favor Change Order No. 5 to finance this change order as approved by the former lone commissioner of CPUC. Why? Does CUC know that this will again require a rate increase?

■ CUC recently renewed the contract for its CFO. Why was he also given a salary increase pursuant to his contract being renewed? Isn't he already making over a 100K per annum? Is this why rate increase petition continue—so that the upper management and its consultants such as economist.com can be paid and given a lucrative contract? And by the way, why do we still have economist.com? Isn't CFO Chuck Warren capable of handling the financial affairs of CUC?

■ The departure of Mr. Wallon Fong Young a few months ago. What made Mr. Young leave CUC? Was it because he wasn't included in the Integrated Resources Plan discussions? Who is better than Mr. Young, who has extensive knowledge and expertise in the area of power generation and transmission? Is it Alan Fletcher? Is it Chuck Warren? Is it the governor? May I remind you that Mr. Young and the hardworking people of the power plant division single-handedly turned the Power Plant 1 engines to where it is now. I am now afraid that we may be going back to the 2008-2009 era of blackouts and brownouts if we continue forward the next four years.

In closing, I just want to state that under Fletcher's management style, less customers will be able to afford the cost of both electricity and water/waste water. Yes, CUC customer base will shrink and then what will you do? Petition CPUC to raise rates, again?

Francisco Dela Cruz is a member of the House of Representatives of the 18th Legislature.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

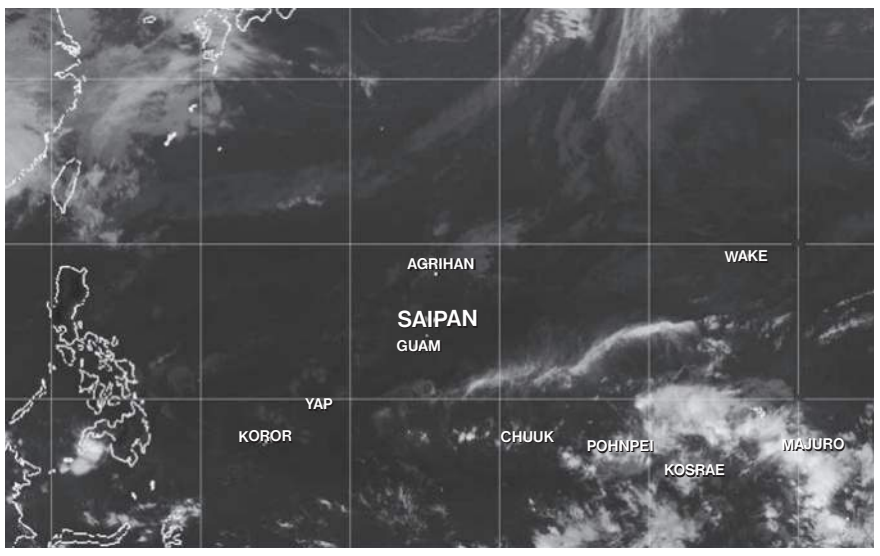
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼61
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼47
Hong Kong	Showers	▲73	▼69
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
London	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼49
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲95	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼66
New York	Showers	▲54	▼35
Osaka	Sunny	▲63	▼47
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼53
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼48
Salem	Showers	▲56	▼41
San Francisco	Rain	▲57	▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼49
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼46
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼39

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from west of Iwo To island near 25N145E to beyond 130E at 21N. Clouds and patchy rain are present along and up to 180 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from well south of Koror at 1N130E to 2N146E then curves northeastward to a circulation centered between Pohnpei and Kosrae near 6N160E then turns southeastward to end south of Kwajalein at EQ168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae or south of a line from 1N153E to 4N160E to 1N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms exist to the north of the trough north of Kosrae to just south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 130 miles of a line from 10N161E to 7N169E to 5N172E to EQ172E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Tarawa, Butaritari and Majuro atolls or east of a line from 10N176E to 6N174E to EQ175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:03 AM	7:53 PM
Wednesday	7:51 AM	8:49 PM
Thursday	8:39 AM	9:43 PM
Friday	9:28 AM	10:35 PM
Saturday	10:17 AM	11:25 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA1746	8:55pm	10:52pm	Daily via Rota

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
D2102	2:20am	5:50am	3
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:30am	7:20am	4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29)
D2104	2:00pm	5:30pm	6
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5038/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN)

D2884	10:45am	2:45pm	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

D2880	4:30pm	8:00pm	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27

SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH)

D2882	11:00am	3:15pm	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA1746	7:30pm	8:10pm	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

D2101	8:30am	2:00pm	3
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
D2103	7:30pm	1:00am+1	6
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	9:10pm	2:30am+1	3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:20pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily
PR110/UA5072	7:35am	5:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	7:45am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	11:10pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN

D2885	4:45pm	12:20am +1	Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

D2881	10:00pm	5:15am +1	Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27

WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN

D2883	5:15pm	12:20am +1	Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

April is designated as Autism Awareness Month

JAYSON CAMACHO

Members and officials of the Autism Society of the CNMI, Public School System, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, NMPASI, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Council on Developmental Disabilities join Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider after the proclamation signing that designates April as Autism Awareness Month.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider jointly designated April as Autism Awareness Month yesterday in the presence of the Autism Society of the CNMI and other advocates and supporters on Capital Hill.

This comes just days after the U.S Center for Disease Control reported that 1 in 68 U.S children has an autism spectrum disorder.

According to Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System, this is an increase of over 30 percent from a 2008 estimate of the CDC.

Health officials said, however, that the new number may not mean autism is more common. Much of the increase is believed to be from a cultural and medical shift, with doctors diagnosing autism more frequently, especially in children with milder problems.

"Autism is a complex and not well understood disability that affects every ethnic group, country, and socioeconomic class," NMPASI said.

The cause of autism is still being debated. Without any blood test or other medical tests for autism, diagnosis is not an exact science. It's identified by making judgments about a child's behavior.

However, the proclamation states that it is important that the CNMI become more aware of the needs of those who has it and the resources available to help them understand the world they live in so they could reach their potential.

According to Public School System Special Education director Suzanne Lizama, "PSS has also recognized the need to be able to identify kids with autism and early interaction with families. …Never let autism define what your child is going to be," she said.

According to Lizama, PSS has about 86 students with autism.

She expressed hope that more people will obtain degrees in autism or speech therapy in order for PSS to have the necessary complement of experts on this phenomenon.

The Autism Society of the CNMI promotes, protects, and advocates the right of those with autism, with the help of the CNMI PSS, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, CNMI Council of Developmental Disabilities, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

In support of Autism Awareness Month, Inos is asking all citizens of the Commonwealth to learn about and understand autism and its impact on affected individuals on the island.

"We should do our part and make sure that our services in providing awareness to the community about autism is there," Inos said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

April is also 'Keep it Clean, Keep it Green' Month

JAYSON CAMACHO

Staff, managers, and executives of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality pose in front of the Governor's Office after the proclamation signing that designated April as Environmental Awareness Month.

In the presence of environment advocates, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude Hofschneider inked yesterday morning on Capital Hill the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Equality's proclamation declaring the month of April as 2014 Environmental Awareness Month.

The proclamation, as read by BECQ's Reina Camacho, states that "each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas including the land, air, and water."

The theme for this year's Environmental Awareness Month is "Keep it Clean, Keep it Green." The theme highlights the responsibility to maintain and protect the shared environment of the CNMI.

Cal Westergard, chairman of the Environmental Awareness Committee, feels that this year's theme instills in the community an opportunity to "enhance our beautiful island." He said it is the perfect time to raise the community's awareness about "our beautiful environment here on the island."

"The Environmental Awareness Committee and I have been working very hard in planning several activities that will highlight the importance of having and sustaining a healthy environment here in the CNMI," he said.

Among the activities lined up for the month of April include a trash and fashion show using recycled materials, a storm drain art contest, tree planting, turtle tagging at the Garapan Fishing Base, an Environmental Expo, an island-wide clean-up, and a recycled boat race.

Inos, for his part, encouraged the community to keep the island clean. "So far [the island] is beautiful and we're doing a lot to make sure we keep it that way. It is for our tourism and our community in general."

BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said he is very pleased to see the teamwork between the two divisions of BECQ.

"Last Friday we had a team-building workshop and now we see both agencies working together for the Environmental Awareness Month, and working with other organizations to pursue the activities in this month's EAM," he said. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Water outage on Isa Drive on Thursday

Residents of Capital Hill living along Isa Drive will experience an eight-hour water outage on Thursday, April 3, 2014, from 8am to 4pm, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow for a waterline diversion due to a new drainage pipe crossing being installed as part of the DPW Cross Island Phase II-B Road Construction Project.

The water outage on Thursday will affect residents living along Isa Drive from the Egigi Road intersection toward the Kagman Road intersection. CUC encourages its customers to call the CUC Call Center at (670) 235-0282 or 235-2282 if you have any questions or concerns in regards to no water or low pressure after the specified hours of water outage. The contractor, Hawaiian Rock Products, and CUC's operations team will be working hard to return service to customers in these affected areas as soon as possible.

For more information, contact assistant project engineer James Benavente at (670) 235-7025-30, Ext. 336. ***(CUC)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Ms. Tara White of SVES, who celebrates her birthday today, April 1! Happy birthday and April Fool's Day! May you have an awesomely great, wonderful, and fabulous day and may you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Greetings and much love coming out from your Lil' Minions: Lia and Jude "Patooter," your mom and dad, your not-so-little brothers, your former and current students, and most especially from your Flaquitas and your Breakfast Club crew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Respicio bats for shipping equality for Guam port

GUAM—Sen. Rory J. Respicio has requested the assistance of Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo to "make a case for equality in the shipping of cargo between and among all American ports."

While the Northern Marianas and the territories of American Samoa and the United States Virgin Islands …possess special exemptions from the Jones Act…the domestic jurisdictions of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the states of Hawaii and Alaska are not exempt, and must pay the full Jones Act freight rates," said Respicio.

Officially known as the "Merchant Marine Act of 1920," the Jones Act requires that cargo shipped between any of the 48 continental United States and U.S. insular areas (Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the CNMI and Puerto Rico) must be transported on U.S.-built and -owned vessels, and must be primarily operated by U.S. crews, except for the Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Puerto Rico, which have Jones Act exemptions.

According to Respicio, these constraints make the U.S. shipping industry among the most expensive on the planet for areas without exemptions.

Guam is the U.S. insular area on which the Jones Act continues to have the greatest fiscal impact, Respicio said. He pointed out that the Northern Marianas, just a few miles north of Guam, has a Jones Act exemption, while Guam, geographically the largest of the Marianas islands, is not included. ***(PR)***

US Naval Hospital Guam galley closes to unauthorized patrons

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—On April 21 the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam's galley will become a "closed" galley. The galley will only be open to inpatients and persons who work in the hospital and carry a hospital identification badge including active duty staff, Civil Service and contract employees, and Red Cross volunteers. Escorted family members of active duty personnel or those with temporary orders to the hospital, such as Reservists, will also be authorized to use the galley.

The closed galley concept aligns with the Commander Naval Installations Instruction 4061.1 that states, "A shore galley is defined as a food service operation on a Navy installation that is funded through appropriated dollars for the purpose of providing meals to active duty sailors. Due to the cost of providing galley service through appropriated funds, the Navy does not allow unlimited galley access to all personnel who work or have daily access to Navy installations."

U.S. Navy Galleys are a part of the Navy's Fleet and Family Readiness Program with the purpose of providing sailors and other authorized patrons the very best meals and service possible.

"Although Navy galleys were 'closed' years ago, the Naval Hospital continued operations in order to provide meals to inpatients. As we transition to the new facility we will align with Navy policy for patronage at a shore galley," said Capt. Jeff Plummer, the hospital's commanding officer.

The replacement hospital provides 42 beds, four operating rooms, two C-Section rooms, and improved diagnostic and ancillary capabilities to include MRI and CT scanning suites.

For more information refer to our website at http://1.usa.gov/1n4qQSh and click on the "New Hospital" tab at the top of the page. You can also find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/USNHGUAM or you contact the hospital's Public Affairs Office at 344-9526. ***(USN)***

JENNIFER M. ZINGALIE

On April 21, the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam galley will be closed to unauthorized patrons in compliance with Commander Naval Installation Instruction 4061.1. The galley will only be open to hospital staff with the proper identification card which includes active duty staff, Civil Service and contract employees, American Red Cross volunteers, Reservists with temporary orders to the hospital and escorted family of active duty staff.

Ayuda Foundation gets fabrics, sewing equipment for Chuuk Women's Council

The Ayuda Foundation had a table at the recent Guam Quilt Show, held Saturday, March 22, 2014, at Guam Shopping Center where donors could deliver fabrics and sewing notions. The donations, more than 30 boxes, will be delivered to Chuuk's Women's Council.

Chuuk State is grappling with a high birth rate and low school attendance. Chuuk's political and social leaders wish to teach women skills that will increase their earning ability, broaden their learning skills, and enable them to lift themselves and their families above the poverty level, to become business owners, to become taxpayers, to become thoughtful voters, and to become leaders in their own community.

Kiki Stinnet, president of the Chuuk Women's Council, has received a grant to purchase sewing machines, has a building to house the training, but materials and fabric are so expensive in FSM that she has requested The Ayuda Foundation to gather excess fabrics and sewing equipment, i.e., bias tape, curtains, drapes, fabric scraps, flat fabric, gathered skirts, lace pieces, lining materials, needles, pin cushions, ribbon, ric rac, scissors, sewing baskets/boxes, sewing machine needles, straight pins, tape measures, thimbles, thread, and transparent tape.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jennie Leon Guerrero, special projects manager for Ayuda Foundation, showcases samples of donated goods to "Operation Sewing Basket."

The Ayuda Foundation declares a success for its first Operation Sewing Basket, a program to provide sewing fabrics and equipment to teach sewing skills to young women in Chuuk. More than 30 boxes of fabrics, lace, ric rac, thread, zippers, needles, thimbles, thread, pins, instruction books, quilting magazines, etc. were donated during the quilting exhibition. All of the boxed items will be carried to Chuuk via Matson Navigation Inc. through the courtesy of Triple B freight forwarding company. Neither company will assess charges to either the Ayuda Foundation nor to the Chuuk Women's Council; all items will be donated without charge to the end users. ***(Ayuda Foundation)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free business workshop on customer service

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will host a free business workshop on Saipan called "Customer Service for Small Businesses" on April 17, 2014, at the second floor of the Family Building in Garapan, from 10am to 12pm. It will be presented by Small Business Development Center director Perry Inos Jr. Call 664-3018 for pre-registration. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one business day before workshop. Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability. Online registration is also available at pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. ***(PR)***

Navy chiefs to celebrate 121st birthday

ASAN, Guam—Navy chiefs in Guam will celebrate the 121st birthday of chief petty officers during a flag-raising ceremony at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center in Santa Rita today, April 1, at 8am. Active and retired Navy master chiefs, senior chiefs and chiefs will be in attendance.

The CPO rating was established April 1, 1893, giving enlisted sailors the opportunity to further advance in their career. CPOs are responsible for the training, discipline and recognition of Sailors under their guidance and serve as experts in their designated field.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to arrive at the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center no later than 7:45am due to traffic delays in front of the U.S. Naval Base Guam main gate.

Navy to conduct training at former Admiral Nimitz Golf Course

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct parachuting and helicopter operations training at the former Admiral Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada on April 3 from 8am to 2pm. This exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see and hear increased activity associated with the exercise. ***(PR)***

Business

Another Apple-Samsung skirmish heads to court

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—The fiercest rivalry in the world of smartphones is heading back to court this week in the heart of the Silicon Valley, with Apple and Samsung accusing each other, once again, of ripping off designs and features.

The trial will mark the latest round in a long-running series of lawsuits between the two tech giants that underscore a much larger concern about what is allowed to be patented.

"There's a widespread suspicion that lots of the kinds of software patents at issue are written in ways that cover more ground than what Apple or any other tech firm actually invented," Notre Dame law professor Mark McKenna said. "Overly broad patents allow companies to block competition."

The latest Apple-Samsung case will be tried less than two years after a federal jury found Samsung was infringing on Apple patents. Samsung was ordered to pay about $900 million but is appealing and has been allowed to continue selling products using the technology.

AP

In this Aug. 27, 2012 photo, the Apple iPhone 4s, left, is displayed next to the Samsung Galaxy S III at a store in San Francisco.

Now, jury selection is scheduled to begin Monday in another round of litigation, with Apple Inc. accusing Samsung of infringing on five patents on newer devices, including Galaxy smartphones and tablets. In a counterclaim, Samsung says Apple stole two of its ideas to use on iPhones and iPads.

"Apple revolutionized the market in personal computing devices," Apple attorneys wrote in court filings.

Delta to launch WiFi access on its 747-400 aircraft

ATLANTA—Delta Air Lines will launch international WiFi service on flights 283 and 295 equipped with Ku-band satellite WiFi on Boeing 747-400 aircraft departing Los Angeles International Airport and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to Narita International Airport in Tokyo. For more than five years, Delta has provided WiFi to customers traveling on its mainline aircraft flying within the United States.

Delta has three of 16 747-400 aircraft complete which also operate between Detroit and Seoul-Incheon; Detroit and Nagoya, Japan; Detroit and Tokyo-Narita; New York-JFK and Tel Aviv as well as New York-JFK and Tokyo-Narita.

Customers can access WiFi service with introductory pricing options that begin with one hour passes for laptop users as low as $14.00 and $8.00 for mobile users or a flight pass option, which will keep customers connected throughout their flight, starting at $24.95 for laptop users and $14.95 for mobile users. All of Delta's 747-400 aircraft will have WiFi installed by mid-2014.

"Our customers want to remain productive in-flight and that does not stop as they fly over U.S. borders," said Tim Mapes, Delta's senior vice president – Marketing. "Expanding Delta's WiFi services internationally is another benefit of the investments we are making to improve the travel experience, and give our customers exactly what they want."

Delta will complete the installation of WiFi service on its entire international fleet by the end of 2015 including its Boeing 777, 767, 747, Airbus A330 and transoceanic Boeing 757 aircraft operating on international, long-haul routes. Delta and Gogo are in the final testing phase for WiFi on the Airbus A330 fleet. The addition of in-flight Internet for more than 150 aircraft will expand the number of worldwide aircraft equipped with WiFi to approximately 1,000 jets including all two-class regional, domestic and international aircraft.

The new international service uses satellites for global connectivity to offer coverage internationally and will compliment Delta's existing air-to-ground service already provided by Gogo for aircraft flying within the domestic U.S.

Delta operates the world's largest WiFi-equipped fleet of aircraft with more than 3,400 flights daily, including its entire fleet of 570 domestic mainline aircraft. More than 870 Delta aircraft, including all Delta Connection two-class regional jets, are equipped with in-flight WiFi service offering more than 400,000 customers per day access to the Internet above 10,000 feet. ***(Delta Air Lines)***

Congress: GM twice failed to fix defect

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors discussed two separate fixes for an ignition switch defect in 2005 but canceled both of them without taking action, according to a memo released Sunday by the House subcommittee investigating GM's handling of the defect and a subsequent recall.

GM last month recalled 2.6 million small cars because their ignition switches can move from the "run" to the "accessory" or "off" position, which causes the car to stall and disables the air bags and power steering. GM says the recall is linked to 13 deaths. The recall includes the Chevrolet Cobalt, Chevrolet HHR, Pontiac G5, Pontiac Solstice, Saturn Ion and Saturn Sky from the 2003-2011 model years.

Congress is investigating why GM didn't recall the cars sooner, because it first found problems with the ignition switches in 2001. It's also questioning federal regulators from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, who didn't investigate the cars despite evidence of a problem.

GM CEO Mary Barra and NHTSA Administrator David Friedman are scheduled to appear Tuesday before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee. A separate Senate hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

The House memo provides new details about GM's consideration - but ultimate rejection - of potential solutions.

According to the memo, GM engineers met in February 2005 to consider making changes to the ignition switch after reports it was moving out of position and causing cars to stall. But an engineer said the switch was "very fragile" and advised against changes. In March 2005, the engineering manager of the Cobalt closed the case, saying an ignition switch fix would take too long and cost too much, and that "none of the solutions represents an acceptable business case."

Nation

Mudslide death toll rises; search dogs take break

DARRINGTON, Wash. (AP)—Many of the dogs essential in the search for victims of the deadly mudslide that buried a mountainside community will take a two-day break, rescue crews said Sunday, as the official death toll rose and more bodies were recovered.

The dogs can lose their sensing ability if overworked in the cold and rain.

"The conditions on the slide field are difficult, so this is just a time to take care of the dogs," said Kris Rietmann, a spokeswoman for the team working on the eastern portion of the slide, which hit March 22 about 55 miles northeast of Seattle and is one of the deadliest in U.S. history.

Dogs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that arrived more recently will continue working.

On Sunday evening, the number of people who have been confirmed dead increased from 18 to 21, said Jason Biermann, program manager at the Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management.

Fifteen of the victims have been identified by the Snohomish County medical examiner, and six have yet to be identified, Biermann said.

Another four bodies were found in the debris field on Sunday, but they won't be added to the official count until the medical examiner receives the bodies. Biermann said 30 people remain missing.

Authorities have said the task of finding and identifying victims from the debris field has been extremely challenging, and not all may ultimately be recovered.

Crews have completed a makeshift road that will link one side of the debris field to the other, significantly aiding the recovery operation.

They have also been working to clear mud and debris from the highway, leaving piles of gooey muck, splintered wood and housing insulation on the sides of the road.

Searchers have had to contend with treacherous conditions, including septic tanks, gasoline and propane containers. When rescuers and dogs leave the site, they are hosed off by hazardous materials crews.

The slide dammed up the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River, causing water to pool up on the east side. The river cut a new channel through the mud, but the rain has raised the water level nearly a foot, Rietmann said.

In at least one place, the water level got so high that it covered areas that have already been searched, said Tim Pierce, leader of Washington Task Force 1, a search-and-rescue team.

"At this point, there's no point in searching (that area) again until the water drops back down," he said.

Animal mummies displayed at California museum

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Dogs and cats are often beloved family members in current culture, but animals held such a prominent place in ancient Egyptian society that tens of millions were mummified, some going into the pharaohs' tombs to rest eternally in the company of their kings.

Others had their own special cemeteries, where they were buried in coffins as elaborately carved as those of royal family members.

Dozens of the best surviving specimens have taken up residence at Orange County's Bowers Museum as the centerpiece of "Soulful Creatures: Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt."

There's a dog so well detailed that even its floppy ears are prominent. An ancient cat has been laid to rest with its little paws drawn across its body, creating an image eerily reminiscent of a human's funeral pose.

"It just shows how closely Egyptians thought of animals on some basic level as being very similar to human beings," said Edward Bleiberg, the exhibition's curator. "The Egyptians believed that animals had souls."

But soulful or not, most people - other than a king or queen - couldn't afford to keep a dog or cat around just for companionship in ancient times, Bleiberg said.

Thus the hunting dog seen waiting patiently under a chair during a dinner table scene etched onto an ancient tablet in the exhibition would likely have been shown the door if it hadn't contributed to making that meal possible.

Most animals had an even greater job. They were charged with the responsibility of using their souls in death to carry messages to the gods they had represented on Earth during their lives. The dog, for example, was the sacred votive or messenger of the god Anubis, who is depicted in ancient Egyptian art as a man with the head of a dog.

The Ibis communicated directly with the god Thoth, who had the body of a man and head of a bird and who, it seems, was especially good at resolving human disagreements.

ACROSS THE NATION

NY Sen. Schumer asks feds to review WTC security

NEW YORK (AP)—Sen. Charles Schumer stood by the World Trade Center on Sunday, demanding that federal officials review security after daredevils twice sneaked to the top of the site's signature, 104-story skyscraper. Schumer's request comes after a teenager was charged with climbing to the top of the 1,776-foot spire of 1 World Trade Center, three skydiving enthusiasts turned themselves in to face charges in a September jump off the building, and a newspaper published a photo of a guard apparently sleeping on the job. "What is going on here?" asked Schumer.

Police: Man dead after shooting at Ga. university

COLUMBUS, Ga. (AP)—A man was shot and fatally wounded by campus police on Sunday near student apartments at Georgia's Columbus State University after they responded to reports that someone had been seen loading a gun, campus authorities said. No one else was hurt and the campus in western Georgia, about 100 miles southwest of Atlanta, was never put on any lockdown during or after the shooting episode, campus officials said. They added that the man wasn't a student at the school. University Police Chief Rus Drew told The Associated Press that officers were called at 2:35 p.m. Sunday and arrived three minutes later to an area near some campus apartments and began chasing the man on foot.

Skydiver dies after midair collision in S. Calif.

JAMUL, Calif. (AP)—A skydiving trainer has died after a midair collision in eastern San Diego county. Sheriff's Lt. Clayton Lisk said the man's body was found in the Jamul (hah-mool) area Sunday afternoon following a search-and-rescue effort. The owner of Skydive San Diego told reporters the victim was practicing a maneuver called tracking when he collided with his jump partner's knee or leg. Buzz Fink said the victim's parachute was never deployed. The other jumper involved in the collision was not injured and was able to land in the drop zone.

Asia

Australian PM vows search for jetliner will go on

PERTH, Australia (AP)—The weekslong search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 is "an extraordinarily difficult exercise" but it will go on as long as possible, Australia's prime minister said Monday.

Tony Abbott told reporters in Perth, the base for the search, that although no debris has been found in the southern Indian Ocean that can be linked to the plane, searchers are "well, well short" of any point where they would scale the hunt back.

The Boeing 777 disappeared March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard, and after experts shifted through radar and satellite data, they gradually moved the hunt from seas off of Vietnam, to areas west of Malaysia and Indonesia, and then to several areas west of Australia.

"This is an extraordinarily difficult exercise .... we are searching a vast area of ocean and we are working on quite limited information," Abbott said, adding that the best brains in the world and all the technological mastery is being applied to the task.

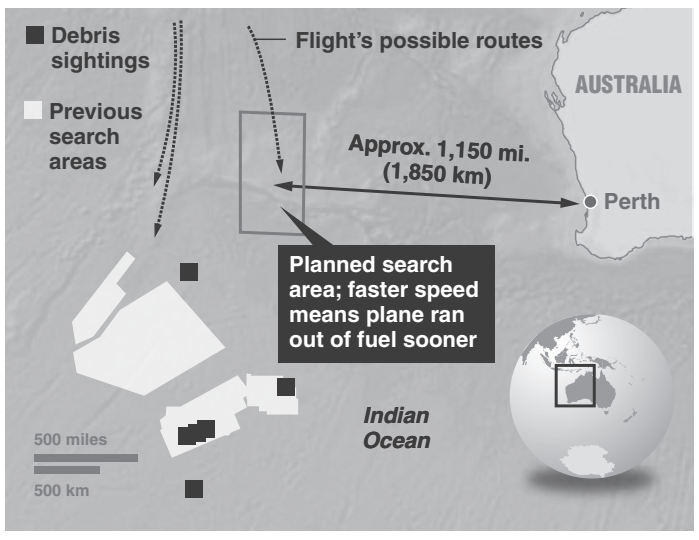
"If this mystery is solvable, we will solve it," he said.

He said the search that has been going on for more than three weeks is operating on guestimates "until we locate some actual wreckage from the aircraft and then do the regression analysis that might tell us where the aircraft went into the ocean."

The first planes from Monday's hunt were over the search area about 1,850 kilometers (1,150 miles) west of Australia.

New search area

The search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has moved to a new part of the Indian Ocean after analysis shows the plane may have been traveling faster than originally thought. Multiple search planes have spotted debris in the new area.



Source: ESRI, BBC, Australian Maritime Safety Authority © 2014 MCT

PH files evidence against China's claims

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines presented evidence to an international tribunal against China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea, ignoring Beijing's warning that the case will damage ties.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario told a news conference Sunday that the documents submitted electronically to the tribunal in The Hague consist of nearly 4,000 pages of analysis and documentary evidence.

Filipino officials took their territorial disputes with China to international arbitration in January 2013, after Chinese government ships took control of a disputed shoal off the northwestern Philippines. They asked the tribunal to declare China's claims to about 80 percent of the strategic waters and Beijing's seizure of eight South China Sea shoals and reefs illegal.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said last week that China will never accept nor participate in the international arbitration pushed by the Philippines. He called on the Philippines "to stop going any further down the wrong track so as to avoid further damage to bilateral relations."

In Washington, U.S. State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf backed the Philippines' action, saying "all countries should respect the right of any states party, including the Republic of the Philippines, to avail themselves of the dispute resolution mechanisms provided for under the Law of the Sea Convention."

"We hope that this case serves to provide greater legal certainty and compliance with the international law of the sea," she said in a statement. She reiterated a longstanding U.S. position that all parties refrain from taking unilateral actions that are "escalatory and destabilizing, to clarify their respective maritime and territorial claims in accordance with international law, and to commit to the peaceful management and resolution of disputes."

SKorea fires shells at NKorean waters after drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Monday returned fire into North Korean waters after shells from a North Korean live-fire drill fell south of the rivals' disputed western sea boundary, a South Korean military official said. Residents on a front-line South Korean island said they were evacuated to shelters during the exchange.

No shells from either side were fired at any land or military installations, an official with South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. He provided no other details and spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules.

Kang Myeong-sung, speaking from a shelter on Yeonpyeong island, which is in sight of North Korean territory, said that anxious islanders were huddled together in shelters. Kang said he didn't see any fighter jets, but he could hear the boom of artillery fire. In 2010, North Korean artillery killed four South Koreans on Yeonpyeong.

The exchange of fire followed Pyongyang's earlier, unusual announcement that it would conduct the live-fire drills, a move seen as an expression of Pyongyang's frustration at making little progress in its recent push to win outside aid.

The North in recent weeks has increased threatening rhetoric and conducted a series of rocket and ballistic missile launches that are considered acts of protest against annual ongoing springtime military exercises by Seoul and Washington. The North calls the South Korea-U.S. drills a rehearsal for invasion; the allies say they're routine and defensive.

Pyongyang threatened Sunday to conduct a fourth nuclear test at some point, though Seoul says there are no signs of an imminent detonation.

After the North's earlier announcement Monday that it would conduct firing drills in seven areas north of the sea boundary, South Korea responded that it would strongly react if provoked.

Pyongyang routinely test-fires artillery and missiles into the ocean, but it's rare for the country to disclose such training plans in advance. Wee Yong-sub, a deputy spokesman at the South Korean Defense Ministry, said the North Korean message was a "hostile" attempt to heighten tension on the Korean Peninsula.

World

US, Russia talks fail to end Ukraine deadlock

PARIS (AP)—The United States and Russia agreed Sunday that the crisis in Ukraine requires a diplomatic resolution, but four hours of talks between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov failed to break a tense East-West deadlock over how to proceed.

Sitting face-to-face but not seeing eye-to-eye on any of the most critical issues, Kerry and Lavrov advanced far- different proposals on how to calm tensions and de-escalate the situation, particularly as Russia continues to mass troops along its border with the former Soviet republic. As he called for Moscow to begin an immediate pullback of the troops, Kerry also ruled out discussion of Russia's demand for Ukraine to become a loose federation until-and-unless Ukrainians are at the table.

"The Russian troop buildup is creating a climate of fear and intimidation in Ukraine," Kerry told reporters at the home of the U.S. ambassador to France after the meeting, which was held at the Russian ambassador's residence and included a working dinner. "It certainly does not create the climate that we need for dialogue."

The U.S. believes the massing of tens of thousands of Russian soldiers, ostensibly for military exercises, along the border is at once an attempt to intimidate Ukraine's new leaders after Russia's annexation of the strategic Crimean peninsula and to use as a bargaining chip with the United States and the European Union, which have condemned Crimea's absorption into Russia and imposed sanctions on senior Russian officials.

Kerry noted that even if the troops remain on Russian soil and do not enter Ukraine, they create a negative atmosphere.

"The question is not one of right or legality," he said. "The question is one of strategic appropriateness and whether it's smart at this moment of time to have troops massed on the border."

U.S. officials said Kerry proposed a number of ideas on troop withdrawals from the border and that Lavrov, while making no promises, told him he would present the proposals to the Kremlin.

At a separate news conference at the Russian ambassador's house, Lavrov did not address the troop issue. Instead, he made the case for Moscow's idea of Ukraine as a federalized nation with its various regions enjoying major autonomy from the government in Kiev. Russia says it is particularly concerned about the treatment of ethnic Russians and Russian speakers who live in southern and eastern Ukraine.

Lavrov said that Ukraine can't function as a "unified state" and should be a loose federation of regions that are each allowed to choose their own economic, financial, social, linguistic and religious models.

He said every time Ukraine has elected a new president, the country has adopted a new constitution, proving that "the model of a unified state doesn't work."

Ukrainian officials are wary of decentralizing power, fearing that pro-Russia regions would hamper its Western aspirations and potentially split the country apart. However, they are exploring political reforms that could grant more authority to local governments.

The U.S. has been coy about their position on a federation. Washington has encouraged ongoing political and constitutional reform efforts that the government in Kiev is now working on but U.S. officials insist that any changes to Ukraine's governing structure must be acceptable to the Ukrainians.

Kerry said the federation idea had not been discussed in any serious way during his meeting with Lavrov "because it would have been inappropriate to do so without Ukrainian input."

"It is not up to us to make any decision or agreement regarding federalization," he said. "It is up to Ukrainians."

"We will not accept a path forward where the legitimate government of Ukraine is not at the table," Kerry said, adding that the bottom line is: "No decisions about Ukraine without Ukraine."

Lavrov denied that Moscow wants to "split Ukraine."

"Federation does not mean, as some in Kiev fear, an attempt to split Ukraine," he said. "To the contrary, federation ... answers the interests of all regions of Ukraine."

Conflict with Russia galvanizes Ukraine's identity

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—He's one of Russia's favorite doctors, the author of books read by parents from Moscow to Siberia. And he lives in eastern Ukraine where the Russian language is dominant and ties to Russia strong.

But when Russia seized control of Crimea, Yevgeny Komarovsky sent this blunt message to the Russian people: We Ukrainians are a nation of our own.

"Don't impose peace on us," Komarovsky told his fans in Russia, many of whom used his books to raise their children, in a video that received nearly 1.2 million views on YouTube.

The appeal for an independent and united Ukraine by the Russian-speaking Komarovsky underscored Ukraine's distinct national identity, and belied Russian President Vladimir Putin's claim that Ukraine is part of the Russian family. In fact, Russia's invasion - which Putin justifies by saying he needs to protect Russian speakers - has fueled a surge of patriotism among a great many Ukrainians, whatever their language.

These feelings of unity are underpinned by a sense of fragility stemming from being a country that has for centuries been dominated by great empires to the east and west. And from folklore to ancestral traditions, Ukraine has shown itself to possess a distinct identity.

The Ukrainian national consciousness is steeped in love of one's land and the quest for survival. The challenge simply to stay whole is as acute as ever today after Russia annexed Ukraine's strategic Crimean Peninsula, stoking fears that the Kremlin is planning to invade more Russian-speaking eastern territories.

Ukraine, a land the size of France with a population of 46 million, has historically been a massive prize in the heart of Europe. The site of the ancient Slavic state, the Kievan Rus, it was the regional cradle of Orthodox Christianity. Over centuries, parts of Ukraine have belonged to Poland, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Russia and the Soviet Union.

Ukraine is also a land steeped in 20th century tragedy - conflict so traumatic that one historian has called Ukraine "Bloodland." The litany of calamities include the Bolshevik revolution and ensuing civil war that brought Ukraine into the Soviet Union; a devastating famine engineered by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin that killed millions of Ukrainians; Stalin's purges that targeted Ukraine's intellectual elite; invasion by Hitler and the murder of more than 1 million of Ukrainian Jews in the Holocaust.

Focus

AP

In this photo taken in October 2012, released by WSI, a Quantum Spatial Company, sensor operators Lennie Rummel left, and Drew Wendeborn, right, are shown inside a helicopter taking measurements with LIDAR, a high-tech laser system mounted on the aircraft, to build a detailed elevation map of the terrain above Omak, Wash.

No national system to track LANDSLIDE HAZARDS

By PHUONG LE and GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP)— People living in the path of a deadly Washington state landslide had virtually no warning before a wall of mud, trees and other debris thundered down the mountain. Some of the homeowners didn't even know the hillside could give way at any time.

Unlike the warning systems and elaborate maps that help residents and officials prepare for natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes, there's no national system to monitor slide activity and no effort underway to produce detailed nationwide landslide hazard maps.

The U.S. Geological Survey doesn't track or inventory slide areas on a national scale, despite an ambitious plan to do so more than a decade ago when Congress directed it to come up with a national strategy to reduce landslide losses.

That's left states and communities to put together a patchwork of maps showing landslide hazards. In some cases, they are discovering that more buildings than previously thought are sitting on unstable ground. Even then, that information may not make its way to property owners.

Building a nationwide system is now possible with new technology, experts say, but would require spending tens of millions of dollars annually and could take more than a decade to complete with the help of states and cities. So far, however, there has been little public outcry for faster, concerted action.

"No one has pushed it, and it hasn't been a priority," said Scott Burns, a geology professor at Portland State University. "It's costly to monitor it, and we don't want to pay for it."

He added, "Now they're seeing these large disasters and saying this is important."

The challenge, experts say, is that many landslides are inactive or cause consistent low-level damage, while big, destructive landslides happen only sporadically and don't cause the type of spectacular devastation hurricanes, earthquakes or tornadoes do— so they often don't get the same attention or resources.

Despite this, landslides have exacted a toll in all 50 states, causing 25 to 50 deaths a year and up to $2 billion in losses annually. The last national map, which shows high landslide risk areas in the Appalachians, the Rockies and along the West Coast, was published in 1982, but it is outdated and lacks detail.

The lack of attention on landslides comes as experts say increasing numbers of people are moving farther out from cities and suburbs— or onto previously uninhabited slopes within them— and are more likely to come face to face not just with the views they sought but also with nature's destructive forces. Development on vulnerable land can disturb soil, put too much weight on slopes, or increase soil moisture, whether it is from runoff or a prolific sprinkler system.

Lynn Highland, a geographer with the USGS's National Landslide Information Center, said she and others have advocated for a national landslide inventory, but the agency's Landslide Hazards Program only has an annual budget of $3.5 million and a staff of about 20.

"It's expensive and everybody seems to be satisfied with dealing with landslides when they come, except when we get a big one like this," she said, referring to the March 22 slide that killed at least 18 in Oso, about 55 miles northeast of Seattle, in what could be one of the worst natural disasters in the state's history.

Weary of landslides constantly threatening homes, power lines and underground pipes, some states aren't waiting for disasters to hit. Oregon, North Carolina, Kentucky and others have used high-tech lasers mounted on aircraft to begin to assess landslide risk and build maps that could be used by planners and homeowners.

The air-borne laser, known as LIDAR, fires rapid laser pulses at a surface and a sensor on the instrument measures the amount of time it takes for each pulse to bounce back— building a detailed elevation map, point by point.

These mapping efforts are turning up previously overlooked dangers: More homes and businesses than previously thought are sitting on hillsides, coastal bluffs and mountain areas that could give way at any time.

"We discovered that in most places we had only found a tenth to a quarter of existing landslides in previous mapping efforts," said Ian Madin, chief scientist for Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

While a national LIDAR mapping effort is planned to start in 2015, USGS scientists have worked in regions such as Washington's Puget Sound to pinpoint landslide hazards. In Seattle, they developed a forecasting tool that acts as an early warning system to let city officials know when intense rainfall could likely cause rain-soaked hillsides to buckle.

Jim Lee, a senior engineer with Seattle Public Utilities, said when that rain threshold is reached, landslide response crews are put on standby so they are ready to clear downed power lines, mud-covered streets or check on water lines. The National Weather Service in Seattle also will issue statements about potential landslides once the threshold is reached.

Tracking landslides is difficult because all the action happens underground and slides vary from hillside to hillside depending on soil, hydrology and geologic conditions, experts say, so much so that damage is typically excluded from typical private property insurance.

The lack of private insurance for landslide damage results, in part, from the difficulty in estimating the likelihood that a landslide will occur at any particular location, a USGS study found. "We might be able to get a handle on insurance for landslide if we have an inventory," Highland said.

The USGS started a landslide inventory pilot project for states but ran out of money. A dozen states participated, including Oregon, Washington, California, Louisiana and Pennsylvania. But even if scientists can map all the existing landslides and are able to monitor those that are active, they still don't know how to narrow down to the most vulnerable locations where landslides can turn into a disaster, said Jonathan Stock, director of the USGS Innovation Center for Earth Sciences in California.

"Of the tens of thousands of similar landslides that are slowly moving around the nation, we still don't know which have the potential to be pathological," Stock said.

For now, the USGS runs a half dozen monitoring research projects to understand conditions in soil that precede landslides driven by big storms. In the San Francisco Bay area, where storms have caused hundreds to thousands of slides at a time in recent years, instruments measure such soil characteristics as moisture level and water pressure.

Some communities are working to develop regulations that would guide development on landslide-prone areas. In Oregon City, Ore., where landslides have caused significant property damage in recent years, city code requires applicants to provide a report on the site's geology and prohibits construction of new subdivisions on steeper slopes.

"We're trying to do everything to reduce the risk or altogether avoid these areas," said Tony Konkol, the city's community development director.

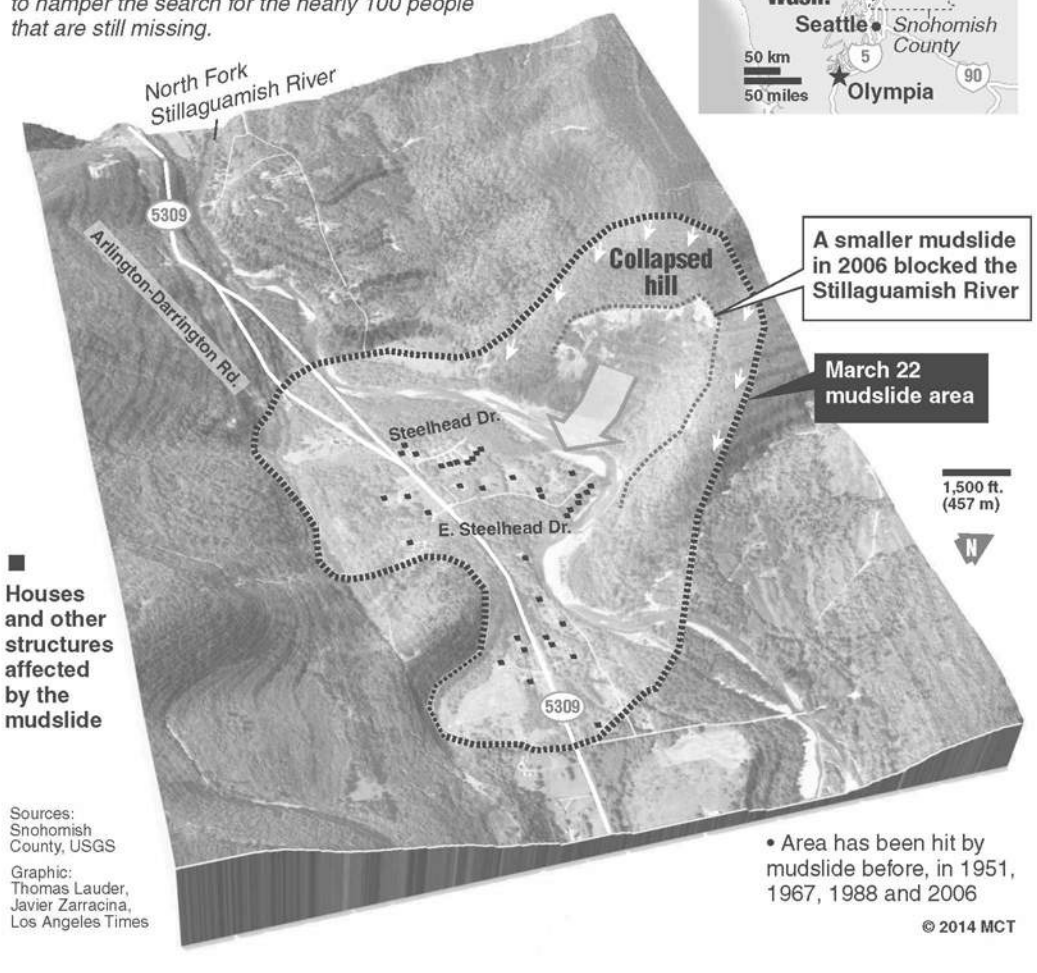
And even when landslide risks have been mapped using the new technology— as was the case with the slide area in Washington state— homeowners often don't have access to the maps or don't know how to interpret them. And some may choose not to heed the maps' warnings.

Robin Youngblood, whose house in the foothills of the scenic North Cascades was crushed in the landslide, said Snohomish County officials did not inform her about the dangers of the hillside.

"They knew that this mountain was unstable and they let people build there," she said. "This shouldn't have happened."

Toll expected to rise

A week since a rain-soaked hillside collapsed without warning, destroying a rural neighborhood of 49 homes, Washington state officials say the confirmed death toll from the disaster will likely rise sharply, as rain continues to hamper the search for the nearly 100 people that are still missing.


North Fork Stillaguamish River
5309
Arlington-Darrington Rd.
Collapsed hill
A smaller mudslide in 2006 blocked the Stillaguamish River
March 22 mudslide area
Steelhead Dr.
E. Steelhead Dr.
5309
1,500 ft. (457 m)
N
Houses and other structures affected by the mudslide
• Area has been hit by mudslide before, in 1951, 1967, 1988 and 2006

Sources: Snohomish County, USGS

Graphic: Thomas Lauder, Javier Zarracina, Los Angeles Times

© 2014 MCT

Overdrive

Ford Fusion Hybrid combines brains, beauty

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

As a general rule, gas-electric hybrid cars and trucks are not fun; their very nature precludes it. Hybrids are made to maximize conservation at the expense of stimulation. The thrill of driving one is seeing the mpg indicator creep higher, rather than the speedometer.

Certainly that's true of the Toyota Prius, which loudly proclaims its mission without any endearing aesthetic quality. But a fuel-sipper doesn't have to look ugly to be efficient; you could opt for the 2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid.

Seriously. Take a good look. I'll wait.

See what I mean? It's so beautiful, you'd never guess that it's a hybrid.

Redesigned last year, the Fusion's face wears a grille that bears more than a passing resemblance to the one used by Aston Martin. It fronts a sleek, athletic body that's a bit more unique. Taken together, the car is about as fetching as you can expect a mainstream midsize sedan to be.

Perhaps its most beautiful feature is its EPA rating: 47 mpg city, 47 mpg highway. My 310-mile test drive yielded a very respectable 43 mpg, which is better than most conventional compact cars.

As you may know, a gas-electric hybrid pairs a gas engine with one or more electric motors. By having electricity do some of the chores, the car or truck burns less gas. As a concept, it's more than 100 years old. As a realistic transportation solution, it's about 15 years old. And it works seamlessly in the

Fusion Hybrid.

Ford combines a 141-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine with a 118-horsepower electric motor and funnels the power through a continuously variable automatic transmission to the front wheels. Horsepower is rated at 188. That's not enough to make the Fusion a speed demon, but the car proves lively enough to slug it out in the worst suburban street warfare.

That said, you'll notice a hum from the gas engine when it comes on; it's just enough to let you know what's happening under the hood. And, as with other Ford hybrid models, you'll be coached into driving conservatively. A screen to the right of the speedometer displays a diagram of a plant. The more leaves appear, the more efficiently you're driving.

But efficiency has not changed the Fusion's impressive agility. The Hybrid's handling is every bit as good as the standard Fusion. The car has a solid feel, and the steering seems perfectly weighted. Body roll is kept to a minimum when tackling corners, and braking isn't as grabby as on other hybrids. It is a very willing dance partner, even for car enthusiasts.

While dancing, you'll find the cabin's decor is starkly modern, with a quality feel that will satisfy most shoppers. Offered in S, SE and Titanium trim levels, the Fusion's interior is fairly roomy, with good room up front and adequate room in the rear. But the car's arched roof line, which does much for its sporty looks, compromises rear seat headroom. It also requires care when entering or exiting the rear or else you'll knock your noggin.

Opting for the Hybrid also means living with an oddly shaped trunk that's noticeably smaller than that of the standard Fusion. Much of the missing space is taken up by the hybrid battery pack.

But none of this is enough to rob the car of its basic goodness.

There's little doubt that the Ford Fusion Hybrid is the perfect, um, fusion of fuel economy, enjoyable handling and striking looks.

It makes saving fuel easy on the eyes as well as the wallet. Conserving fuel rarely looks this beautiful.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid:

- Engine: DOHC 2.0-liter four-cylinder
- Motor: Permanent magnet AC synchronous
- Horsepower: 188
- Wheelbase: 112.2 inches
- Length: 191.8 inches
- Weight: 3,668 pounds
- Cargo space: 12 cubic feet
- Towing: Not recommended
- EPA rating (city/highway): 47/47 mpg
- Fuel consumption: 43 mpg
- Fuel type: Regular
- NHTSA safety rating: Five stars
- Base price, base model: $26,270
- Base price, test model: $27,200
- As tested, including destination charge: $35,855

MCT

The 2014 Ford Fusion Hybrid returns 47 miles per gallon in the city, 47 mpg highway.

MOTORING Q&A

Driver who doesn't wear his seatbelt is asking for trouble

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have an '07 GMC Sierra 1500 with 80,000 miles. The other day my radio went off for no reason and I also noticed that my seatbelt warning light was not on as well (I don't wear my seatbelt). Yesterday I shut off the truck and the radio and the door alarm ping stayed on after I shut the door. Any suggestions here?

ANSWER: Absolutely—wear your seatbelt! It is beyond my understanding how any rational human being can choose not to utilize the fundamental component of automotive safety—the seatbelt. Failure to utilize this critical safety system by not buckling up disables virtually all of the extensive passive and active safety systems engineered into a modern automobile.

There are only four primary causes of injury or death in an automobile crash; the human body impacting the interior of the cabin, the cabin being crushed, an outside object penetrating the cabin, and fire. Car makers spend millions of dollars engineering and building crash management systems into today's vehicles that absolutely minimize these possibilities—all predicated on use of the seatbelt. But of course, if the driver or occupants don't buckle up, these safety systems are severely compromised.

If you don't care enough to protect yourself and others in case of a crash, I don't care to answer your question.

Q: I purchased a 2011 Subaru Forester last July. It got 22 to 23 mpg in driving, half highway and half city. I drove from North Carolina to Minnesota last September and got 27.5 to 28.9 mpg on the highway. Throughout the very cold winter here, I have been getting 14.8 to 16.8 mpg. The car is garaged, half my driving is highway, and the car is warmed up frequently. I'm not happy about this and wonder if it is to be expected and I should stop complaining.

A: Welcome to the frozen north. You should probably stop complaining. Compare the 22-23 mpg mileage in warmer weather to the 15-17 mpg in this extremely cold winter. When temperatures are low, more fuel is burned in starting and bringing the engine and drivetrain up to normal operating temperatures.

I would expect your mileage to return to 22 to 23 mpg as warm weather returns.

Q: I have a 2001 Oldsmobile Aurora purchased in 1999. I replaced the battery for the second time since new at a GM shop in January. I purchased a Delco battery but four weeks later, after 88 miles, the battery was dead again. After putting the charger on for a half-hour it started. The shop said the alternator was good, no drainage of juice, battery was good and that I wasn't driving it enough. In years past when a battery was new it would start a car after months of sitting without starting it every day. What gives?

A: I would be more suspicious of the battery's state-of-charge when you purchased it. I don't know how long that battery sat on the dealer's parts shelf or whether the dealership charged it before installing it in your vehicle, but if it wasn't fully charged at the time of installation and you only drove 88 miles over the next month, I'm not surprised it needed to be recharged to start you vehicle. In fact, I would have preferred you charge it with an automatic battery charger for 24 hours to make sure it is fully charged.

I'm sure this battery is still covered by its original warranty, so if there's any further issue with its performance, ask the dealer to replace it under warranty.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, *is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

A monthlong celebration of poetry in April

April is National Poetry Month, a monthlong, national celebration of poetry established by the Academy of American Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the United States. To mark the occasion, Tinian English teacher Joseph Connolly and Dr. Dean Papadopoulos submitted the following poems for publication:

A Trilogy of Sonnets on Mirth

By JOSEPH CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MIRTH MADNESS

making faces and farces on facets of this
taking up collections for chewing the fat
buying chances for a beauty queen's kiss
laughing at ourselves for just wanting that
over and over we rock and we roll
over the rhythm and down through the blue
raring and ready to strut and to stroll
from out with the old to in with the new
under it all driven ballpark insane
goofballs, jerkballs, and more know it alls
yucking it up as we slide through the inane
howling at the moon with wild cat calls
as madness moves mirth in more than one way
so we move across stages in life's little play

MIRTH PROVES ITS WORTH

mirth proves its worth
when haste introduces waste
when teeth no longer need paste
when tongues do not have to taste
when roast turkey needs no baste
when chalk boards are not erased
when alarm clocks need no face
when amazing needs no grace
when ball players are not chased
when bottles need not be cased
when protestors are not maced
when road runners are not paced
when flowers do not need a vase
when stars need no outer space

MIRTH MASTERS MONKEYSHINES

hats off to idiots, all fools and half
wits, more or less, some of them nit
wits that cause whiners to laugh
and giggle like babies drooling spit
all hail big jerkballs, those jolly old elves
using their loudmouths with every breath
making fantastic fools of themselves
as others laugh themselves to death
salutations to the big showoff
bragging about this, showing off that
most folks just blow them off
continue shooting the breeze, chewing the fat
hope these jokers will be around for a while
good for at least a wink and a smile

Joseph Connolly used to teach at Hopwood Junior High School before moving to Tinian. He has had some of his previous poems and haiku published in the Saipan Tribune.

More Than A Teacher

By DR. DEAN PAPADOPOULOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Although we are not parents,
We become parental with our students
And to perform in the role
Of the objective stranger
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not bosses,
We expect work to be done on-time
And to insist otherwise
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not accountants
We are expected to be accountable
To our students,
To our employers
And to our conscience—
If we are so gifted to have one
That is connected to what we do.
And to be less than accountable
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not counselors,
We reach-out to students
Who are asking for a trusted opinion.
And to not offer assistance when it is asked
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not motivational speakers
We must develop the ability
To get what's in us
Outside of us
And to not develop this skill
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not researchers
We must seek as much truth
About what we do
In scientifically-proven best practices
As much as we extrapolate the wisdom
From our own teaching experiences.
And to not seek greater truths
About teaching
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not cultural anthropologists
We must learn the culture of our students
To teach them from what they know first
So that they can learn what they need to know now.
And to be indifferent, in denial, resigned or intolerant
Toward the students that make our life meaningful,
If not possible,
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Teachers…
Great teachers
Are always
More Than Teachers.

Dr. Dean Papadopoulos works with the School of Education at NMC and has been an educator in the CNMI for 22 years.

A Rolling Stones Koan Quartet

By JOSEPH CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Author's Note: This is a group of sonnet, the titles of which are four lines from a Rolling Stone song: 1. You can't always get what you want, 2. But if you try some times, 3. You just might find, 4. You get what you need.

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU WANT

they might just be out of stock
it might be pawned or in hock
between a hard place and a rock
with a sheep dog tending a flock
under some hot chili peppers in a wok
or a four hundred pound granite block
a ferry boat maneuvering in a loading dock
in a bunch of keys that fit every lock
stuck between jellyroll bakers and wurstknack
a quick ride home from Woodstock
that insurance salesman who fed you a crock
non skid shoes for that slippery mountain walk
a mate for that dog masticated mismatched sock
a remedy for punching that old time clock

BUT IF YOU TRY SOMETIMES …

you might fall flat on you face
get a free ride to outer space
find moth holes in old lace
round first and head for second base
have extra money just in case
no memories you need to erase
cut directly to the chase
fall from the sky with grace
finish that walk to some high place
win the hospital charity bed race
have a sufficient amount of lactase
see the pig's feet are a disgrace
get pecans straight from Natchez Trace
go all in on the river and draw a fourth ace

YOU JUST MIGHT FIND …

a shiny penny lying in the street
an ice cold drink and something sweet
some nasty jobs you don't have to repeat
shoes that feel good the first time on your feet
a hearth fire fed with peat
shady spots to beat the heat
bird songs to tickle your tweet
shoes with a diamond in the cleat
life long passes for pizza to eat
enough miles to always fly elite
a drum that gives you a brand new beat
how to get those boots out of concrete
some cream to pour on your cream of wheat
new ways to tenderize road kill meat

YOU GET WHAT YOU NEED

knowing ALMOST exactly who you are
a good rest after coming from afar
a bigger and better five cent cigar
fresh mint tea at a market in Dakar
an endless riff on Bo Diddley's guitar
a hearty Ralph Cramden 'hardee har har'
blinding white lightning from a mason jar
round trip bus tickets from Harbin to Qiqihar
a basketball autographed by Kareem Abdul Jabar
hardwood curly maple floors difficult to mar
every golf game you play just a tad under par
wagons to hitch on to that wandering star
new world record length and weight for Arctic Char
an inexpensive, non-polluting, hybrid pickup or car

Joseph Connolly currently teaches English on Tinian, back after six years of teaching at Hyde Park Magnet Middle School in Las Vegas. He has had some haiku published in Haiku Society of America annual anthologies.

Hyatt Regency Saipan introduces 'Giovanni's to Go'

In an effort to provide gourmet dining in the comfort of guests' own homes, and even offices, Hyatt Regency Saipan is excited to announce the introduction of "Giovanni's To Go". Executive Chef Gabriele Colombo and the talented chefs of Giovanni's will make artisanal pizzas and salads ready to go straight from Giovanni's kitchen to guests' dining rooms.

Guests may choose from an exciting array of pizzas and salads expertly prepared by Giovanni's culinary team. These include Three Cheese, Pizza Margarita, Grilled Chicken, and the Classic Caesar Salad. Pizzas are made, ing Giovanni's well-known pizza dough cooked the a la minute with carefully selected toppings and high-quality tomato sauce. These true Italian classics are ready to be ordered by guests, to go.

To place orders, call (670) 234-1234 Ext 31. There is a 20-minute wait for standard orders and all items are available for lunch from Monday to Friday from 11am and for dinner seven nights a week from 6pm, with last orders at 9pm. Guests may pick up their orders at DJ's Corner, the hotel's gift shop and bakery only.

Hyatt Regency Saipan is situated in Garapan and features 316 luxury rooms and suites that overlook 14 acres of landscaped hotel gardens and lagoons. Reservations for Hyatt Regency Saipan can be made by calling (670) 234-1234 or by visiting saipan.regency.hyatt.com. ***(Hyatt)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Regency Saipan introduces "Giovanni's To Go," which allows guests to order artisanal pizzas and salads for takeout

'Noah' rises to top of box office with $44M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After weathering a sea of controversy, "Noah" arrived in first place at the weekend box office.

Paramount's biblical epic starring Russell Crowe in the titular role opened with $44 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The imaginative take on the tale of Noah's Ark from "Black Swan" director Darren Aronofsky led some religious groups to claim the story had been inaccurately depicted and prompted Paramount to add a disclaimer to marketing materials noting that "artistic license has been taken" in telling the story.

The polarizing attention apparently paid off for "Noah," which features such additions to the well-known Bible story as angelic rock creatures and chic wardrobes for Noah and his family.

1. **"Noah,"** $44 million ($33.6 million international).
2. **"Divergent,"** $26.5 million.
3. **"Muppets Most Wanted,"** $11.4 million.
4. **"Mr. Peabody and Sherman,"** $9.5 million ($17.8 million international).
5. **"God's Not Dead,"** $9 million.
6. **"The Grand Budapest Hotel,"** $8.9 million.
7. **"Sabotage,"** $5.3 million.
8. **"Need for Speed,"** $4.3 million ($13.3 million international).
9. **"300: Rise of an Empire,"** $4.3 million ($8.8 million international).
10. **"Non-Stop,"** $4.1 million.

"Noah," which also stars Jennifer Connelly and Emma Watson, also sailed smoothly in 22 international markets, such as Russia and Australia, earning $33.6 million abroad.

"It certainly feels like the film has really connected with both mainstream moviegoers who are looking for a really sophisticated film and those folks who really want to see a movie that honors their faith," said Rob Moore, Paramount vice chairman. "It's been a very interesting journey to get to this point, but it's definitely a spectacular launch."

"Noah" is the latest faith-centric film to win over audiences this year. Others include the independently released "God's Not Dead," which earned $9 million in its second outing this weekend, and "Son of God," whose domestic total now stands at $57.9 million since opening last month.

"I think these biblical-themed movies are like the next frontier in Hollywood," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "Hollywood hadn't cracked the code on a biblical movie that would have mainstream appeal. Now, I think they've figured it out. We may see a flood - pun intended - coming down the pipeline. We already have `Heaven is for Real' and `Exodus' slated for later this year."

Elsewhere at the box office, Lionsgate's teen science-fiction thriller "Divergent" starring Shailene Woodley came in second place and earned $26.5 million in its second weekend, bringing its domestic total to $95.3 million.

"Muppets Most Wanted," the globe-trotting Muppet sequel from Disney featuring Tina Fey and Ricky Gervais, captured third place with $11.4 million in its second weekend. The latest Muppet caper's total domestic haul is now at $33.2 million.

The weekend's other major new release, "Sabotage," flopped in the seventh spot with $5.3 million. The Open Road action flick starring Arnold Schwarzenegger is the latest failure for the former California governor, whose "The Last Stand" and "Escape Plan" were box-office duds last year.

Disney's "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which opens in the U.S. on Friday, dominated 32 international markets by capturing $75.2 million. The sequel stars Chris Evans as the patriotic Marvel super-soldier.

AP

This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Emma Watson in a scene from "Noah."

Comedian George Lopez not making any apologies

NEW YORK (AP)—George Lopez's new sitcom on FX is called "Saint George," but that doesn't mean he's making any apologies.

Earlier this year, Lopez vowed to be more direct and honest after receiving a mean tweet on Twitter.

"...I got a very negative 'go back to Mexico' tweet,'" the 52-year-old comedian said in a recent interview.

"I'm an American citizen. I responded as I would as myself. Since that day, I decided to be a little more honest with social media. ...I decided to take a little bit more of an aggressive approach. I was losing followers, about 1,000 a week. I was like, 'Why am I losing like a noticeable amount?' Since Super Bowl Sunday...I'm sure I've gained 55,000 followers."

Lopez

His new mantra was put to the test recently when he was photographed lying on a casino floor after going on a drinking spree in Ontario, Canada. The photo went viral, and Lopez faced what happened head on—by making a joke.

"Tied one on last night. Not feeling great this morning. "I was trying to sleep it off, unfortunately, it was on the casino floor," he said in a statement issued after the incident.

"I owned it and moved forward and would do what any comedian would do, (which) is to make fun of it and move past it. It really kind of took the air out of it," he says.

"...To give up drinking and have people know holds me accountable. But nobody is gonna hold me more accountable than I hold myself, so a lot of times ... somebody will say, 'Did you have a drink last night?' And you answer or you don't answer, but their assumption of my life isn't as important as the reality of my own life ... I've had enough alcohol really in my life. I don't intend on (drinking), but it is fun to kind of see people's opinions on how I should live my life."

Lopez marvels at how people use social media as a way to judge others. "I would not consider myself a judge of someone else's life, and social media gives some people a license to comment on other people's lives. It's fascinating," he says.

On "Saint George" (airing Thursdays, 9 p.m.), Lopez plays a recently divorced successful entrepreneur who's trying to balance a busy life and a demanding family.

"It's more about kind of my life right now," says Lopez, who divorced wife Ann Serrano in 2011. They have one daughter.

Lopez says if ratings hold in the first 10 episodes, the show will get an additional 90-episode order.

"In the 10 episodes, if we hold the number or look like a show that people want to watch, then we'll continue, and if it doesn't, then it won't continue."

Colbert caught in Twitter rage

Colbert

NEW YORK (AP)—Sometimes satire isn't made for Twitter's 140-character world.

Comedy Central deleted a message Thursday from its Twitter feed for the late-night satirical "Colbert Report" showing a still from Wednesday night's show where Stephen Colbert joked about starting a "Ching-Chong Ding-Dong Foundation for Sensitivity to Orientals or Whatever."

The joke was part of a skit in which Stephen Colbert, whose performs as a conservative TV host, talked about the Washington Redskins' owner buying things for Native Americans upset with the team's name.

A #CancelColbert hashtag then appeared on Twitter, igniting a debate over what is funny and what is offensive.

Comedy Central deleted the tweet and made clear the feed was not controlled by the show. On his personal Twitter feed, Colbert said of #CancelColbert that "I share your rage."

AP

This Feb. 1, 2014 file photo shows American actress Gwyneth Paltrow at the Goldene Kamera (Golden Camera) media awards in Berlin, Germany.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Former 'Dynasty' star Kate O'Mara dies at age 74

LONDON (AP)—British actress Kate O'Mara, best known for her role in the 1980s soap opera "Dynasty," died Sunday at the age of 74, her agent said. Phil Belfield said O'Mara died in a nursing home in southern England after a short illness. The actress, who began her television career in the 1960s, became a household name for playing Cassandra "Caress" Morrell, sister to Joan Collins' Alexis Colby, in "Dynasty." In Britain she is often remembered for her role in "Triangle"— a soap opera set aboard a North Sea ferry that is often cited as the worst piece of British television. She also appeared in the original run of British series "Doctor Who" and BBC drama "Howards' Way." In the 1990s she starred in the comedy show "Absolutely Fabulous" with Joanna Lumley. More recently she appeared in a 2012 stage adaptation of Agatha Christie's "Death on the Nile." She is survived by her sister, actress Belinda Carroll.

H&M withdraws vest over anti-Semitism controversy

PARIS (AP)—Fashion retailer H&M has pulled a vest from its shelves worldwide after accusations its design, which featured a menacing skull in the center of a Star of David, was anti-Semitic. The menswear item, which was withdrawn this week following complaints, was also destined for sale in Israel, where the retailer has 14 stores. H&M, a Swedish company, said in a statement Friday: "We are sincerely sorry if the T-shirt print has offended anyone, it was not our intention to provoke such a reaction." European Jewish Congress President Moshe Kantor welcomed the garment's withdrawal, calling it a "thoughtless and insensitive design." Kantor said he hoped "that the symbols of the Jewish People will be given the same care as those of other minority groups."

Paltrow speaks, thanks supporters in split

NEW YORK (AP)—Gwyneth Paltrow took to Goop and the lifestyle site's regular weekly email Friday to offer thanks to supporters standing by her and her "consciously uncoupled" husband, Chris Martin, in their freshly announced separation.

But first there was chicken. Three ways to prepare it, in fact. The thanks came in the form of a P.S. below her usual introduction, as in:

"P.S. CM and I in deep gratitude for the support of so many." She added a little heart at the end.

The 41-year-old actress announced their split Tuesday on Goop, staying away from the D word—divorce—and earning a new round of sneers and mockery when she used the New Agey term "conscious uncoupling" instead, with explanation.

Paltrow and the frontman for Coldplay married in 2003 and have two children.

Snooki planning a New Jersey wedding

GARFIELD, New Jersey (AP)—Officials in a northern New Jersey town are discussing whether to allow taping of an MTV show featuring Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi's wedding.

The cast member of the reality series "Jersey Shore" and "Snooki and JWoww" spinoff intends to marry her fiance, Jionni LaValle, at the Venetian banquet hall in Garfield in the fall. The couple has a 1-year-old son.

Polizzi's website says she's planning a "Great Gatsby"-themed wedding.

Mayor Joseph Delaney tells The Record (http://bit.ly/1o3u1xk) newspaper that taping in Garfield could be a great thing.

But Councilman Frank Calandriello has concerns about how the city would be portrayed.

The city's attorney is reviewing the contract.

"Jersey Shore" featured a cast of over-tanned, over-loud and always pumped-up characters who partied amid personal drama.

Seth Rogen says West-Kardashian spoofs are in fun

AP

Seth Rogen, a cast member in "Neighbors," introduces a screening of the film on the second day of CinemaCon 2014, on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Las Vegas.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Attention Hollywood casting agents: Seth Rogen is looking for someone to play the part of baby North in the next Kim Kardashian-Kanye West spoof with pal James Franco.

The 31-year-old actor made the press rounds Thursday at CinemaCon in Las Vegas to promote his upcoming movie, "The Interview" (co-starring Franco).

"Michael Cera would be good," joked Rogen. "Get Annie Leibovitz to take the pictures."

Rogen says he's "a huge fan of Kanye West" and that's at the heart of his mimicry.

"I'm like just really into his music, and when we made the original (spoof of West's "Bound 2" music video featuring Kardashian), we were filming 'The Interview' in Vancouver and we kept trying to go to Kanye West shows that kept getting canceled or the dates kept changing and it happened like two or three times. We were just talking about him all the time and then the video came out so we were just like, 'Let's just try to do that.'"

Their remake, titled "Bound 3," featured a topless Rogen doing his best Kardashian impression on a motorcycle driven by Franco as West.

Most recently, the pair spoofed Vogue's April cover photo—featuring Kardashian and West—by Leibovitz.

Franco's head is seen on West's body and Rogan's face is seen on the reality star.

"The Interview" is scheduled for release in October.

Readers full of foolishness help to celebrate the season

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR READERS: It's April Fools' Day, the one day I can share some of the more unique letters that come my way—clearly, more than a few of which were written in an attempt to have some fun with me. Enjoy!

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Many times when I would wake up in the morning, I'd find toothpaste already on my toothbrush, courtesy of my foreign-born girlfriend, "Inger." Because I am chivalrous, I figured I would return the favor. So at night before going to bed or in the morning, I'd tiptoe to the bathroom and put toothpaste on her toothbrush.

Well, the other day Inger told me, "DON'T put toothpaste on my toothbrush!" I was flabbergasted. And if that's not enough, she no longer preps my toothbrush, either.

I know, I know—I should have asked a simple "Why?" but I wasn't in the mood for drama. Now it's eating at me and I just don't get it.

CONFUSED IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR CONFUSED: I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but here it is: Inger appears to be giving you the brush-off.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have this really hot, sexy latex dress in lilac. I can't decide which color 6-inch stilettos to wear with it, black or white. I don't want to look trashy.

FASHIONISTA IN THE EAST

DEAR FASHIONISTA: With latex in April, wear flats and a LONG overcoat.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I married a wonderful man last week. It was the wedding of my dreams except for one thing: My husband's sister brought six birds with her and insisted it was perfectly acceptable to keep them in the reception area. My new in-laws all said I was "unreasonable" for not allowing the caged birds in the reception area.

I was strong and stood my ground. After a year of preparation, I didn't want our nuptials spoiled by uninvited birds. Has anyone ever written to you about uninvited birds being brought to a wedding?

RUFFLED FEATHERS IN RENO

DEAR RUFFLED: The only ones I can recall were a few cuckoos, but I'm not sure they were of the avian variety.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have a dear old friend I talk with on the phone several times a day. She is the talkative type and sometimes keeps me on the phone for half an hour at a time. The problem is I have an overactive bladder and sometimes must rush to the bathroom. It's very embarrassing. Is there a nice way to tell her I need to get off the phone for a few minutes without being rude or too specific?

LEAKING IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR LEAKING: Yes. Tell her to hang on, you'll be back in a flush.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: All the letters you have printed about pennies brought back the memories of what happened in our family when I was very small. My mother won a $10 gold piece for her sponge cake, but our family dog swallowed the coin.

You are probably wondering if we got the coin back. No, we didn't. Turned out the coin was counterfeit, and the dog couldn't "pass it."

GOTCHA! IN AMHERST, OHIO

DEAR GOTCHA!: Now that's a shaggy dog story if I ever heard one. (And for a moment, I swallowed it.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

GREETINGS. I AM BLOR-UTAR FROM ZIMTOK-5. I HAVE COME TO SUBJUGATE THE HUMAN RACE. DO NOT RESIST.
WHY HUMANS? BECAUSE, IN ADDITION TO THEIR VALUE AS SLAVE LABOR, THEY ARE ALSO DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS! HA HA HA!
BUT FIRST, FOR YOUR EARTH CUSTOM OF "SHOW AND TELL", I WILL EXHIBIT SOME OF OUR TERRIFYING WEAPONRY.
SNEKK BLOG U-LAR MEKHH! GAHGHH! RK!
ALL RIGHT, CALVIN, THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH.
MISS WORMWOOD, SHOULDN'T HE BE IN SOME SPECIAL SCHOOL OR SOMETHING?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

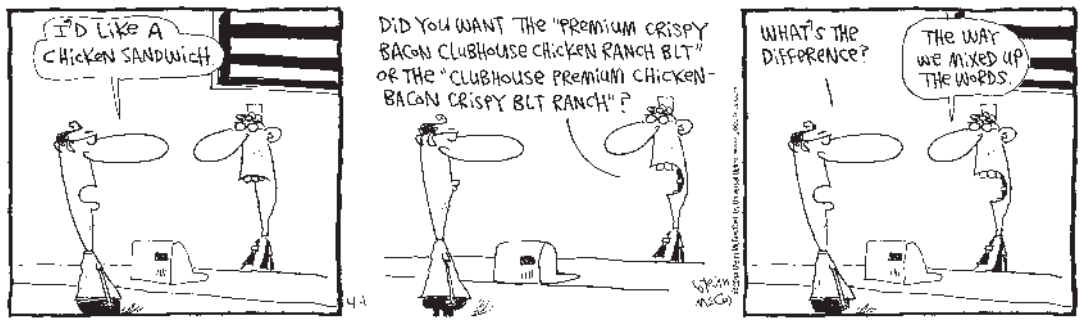
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

YOU'LL NEVER FINISH YOUR NOVEL SITTING HERE WATCHING GAME SHOWS.
SOMETIMES THE CREATIVE MIND NEEDS TIME TO JUST UNWIND... AND...
WHAT ARE CULOTTES?
(SIGH.) GO ON.
I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER NOW, TREBEK!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'D LIKE A CHICKEN SANDWICH.
DID YOU WANT THE "PREMIUM CRISPY BACON CLUBHOUSE CHICKEN RANCH BLT" OR THE "CLUBHOUSE PREMIUM CHICKEN-BACON CRISPY BLT RANCH"?
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
THE WAY WE MIXED UP THE WORDS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

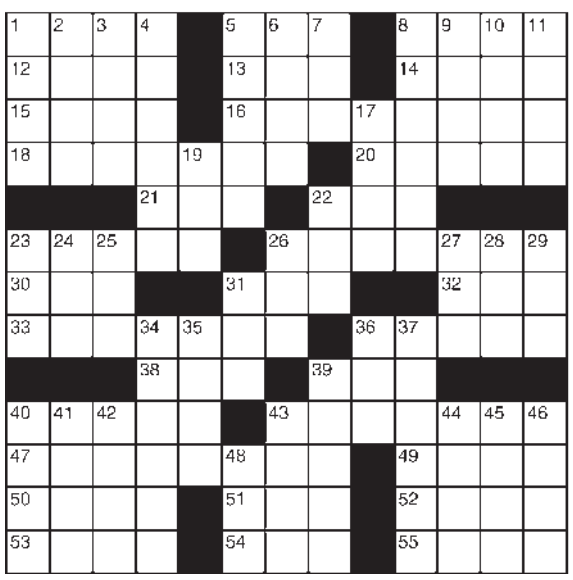
ACROSS
1 "— she blows!"
5 Scrooge's cry
8 Angelic instrument
12 Island dance
13 Cent portrait
14 Chills and fever
15 Norwegian saint
16 Something unexpected
18 Excess
20 Dogpatch lad
21 Fond du —, Wis.
22 Life story, for short
23 Tailor, often
26 Dream-like
30 "— Believer"
31 Sharp turn
32 Compete
33 Medical VIP
36 Meadow
38 Commotion
39 Chignon
40 Basketball's Stoudemire
43 Outlast
47 Dutch Guiana, now
49 "Zounds!"
50 Egyptian fertility goddess
51 Heavy weight
52 Medley component
53 Persian ruler
54 Past
55 Genealogy chart

DOWN
1 Paine or Jefferson (Abbr.)
2 Video-streaming site
3 Winged
4 Lottery of a sort
5 Fundamental
6 Touch
7 That girl
8 Port
9 Not "fer"
10 Stratagem
11 Equal
17 Twosome
19 Listener
22 Insect
23 Family member
24 Ostrich's cousin
25 Kids' card game
26 Transgression
27 Night before
28 Be sick
29 Started
31 Menagerie
34 Flashy
35 Paradise
36 Bear hair
37 Become part-owner
39 Good, in Guadalajara
40 Unrepaired
41 Dog-sledder's command
42 Met melody
43 Urban pall
44 Lab assistant?
45 Barn roof decoration
46 Advantage
48 — glance

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	L	A	B	■	F	A	D	■	S	A	Y	A
P	A	S	O	■	E	G	O	■	A	M	E	X
A	C	A	D	■	S	E	N	S	I	B	L	E
R	E	P	C	A	T	■	T	U	L	I	P	S
■	■	■	G	R	O	G	■	B	O	T	■	■
S	E	N	A	T	O	R	S	■	R	I	P	A
O	V	A	■	S	N	E	A	K	■	O	I	L
B	E	T	S	■	S	E	N	T	E	N	C	E
■	■	I	I	O	■	K	I	W	I	■	■	■
A	D	O	R	E	S	■	T	O	T	T	E	R
S	F	N	O	R	I	T	A	■	H	A	V	F
I	S	A	K	■	C	A	R	■	E	R	I	E
F	I	L	E	■	K	E	Y	■	R	O	L	L

Yesterday's answer 4-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Asa Butterfield, 17; Hillary Scott, 28; Susan Boyle, 53; Debbie Reynolds, 82.

Happy Birthday: Don't let impulse ruin your chance to get ahead this year. Take your time and base your decisions on facts. Controlling the outcome of a situation that concerns your health or your wealth will lead to a positive ending. A long-term investment will pay off. A partnership will lead to unforeseen benefits and new beginnings. Your numbers are 3, 11, 21, 25, 36, 38, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be asked for advice, but meddling will lead to bad feelings. Listen and show interest, but don't get involved. You are best to work on your own personal issues for now. A love relationship will be enriched if you are affectionate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An emotional situation should be dealt with discreetly. Sharing too much personal information will leave you in a vulnerable position. Offering to help someone is fine, but don't go overboard, or you will be taken for granted. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put your charm, creativity and flirtatious personality to work for you and you will find a way to reach your goal. Love is on the rise. Spend a romantic evening with someone special. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put your memory to work and you will come up with answers and solutions based on past experience that make you look like a genius. Don't let anyone acting irrational control a situation that requires steady, reasonable and responsible action. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't make too many changes unless you have worked out every little detail. If you make a mistake, you can rest assured it will be costly. Physical activities will help you blow off steam and lower your stress. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Your focus should be on learning and discovering cultural or spiritual differences. Sharing with people from all walks of life will help you make a decision that will point you in a new direction. Follow your heart when dealing with relationships. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A resourceful outlet will be your best friend. Get the answers you need before making a decision. Someone will try to railroad you into doing something you will regret. Love is on the rise and romantic plans should be put into play. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take good care of your health and your home. Don't take a risk based on a sales pitch that has little merit. Do something creative and it will occupy your time, keep you out of trouble and lead to an unusual opportunity. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Situations will escalate quickly if you aren't explicit in your assessment and description of what's taking place. You may be inclined to make unexpected changes, but before doing so, get the OK from anyone affected by your decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your head down and your thoughts to yourself. You'll be judged by what you say and do. Someone you least expect will turn out to be your ally. Keep your business and personal life separate and you'll avoid interference. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Step up and do your share. Being a team player will help you advance. A change in the way you make or handle your money will help you raise your standard of living. Consider making a move or fixing up your residence. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Focus on contracts, settlements, investments and any dealings you have with institutions or government agencies. You can make headway if you take a different approach to the way you manage your personal affairs. An emotional situation will turn in your favor. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thoughtful, practical and responsible. You have stamina and fortitude.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			5			1	
5		9			6			7
				8			5	
	3		8		9			
2		1		7		8		4
			1		4		7	
	5			9				
4			3			5		1
	8			1			4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	6	7	9	8	4	3	2
7	3	8	6	2	4	9	1	5
2	9	4	1	3	5	8	7	6
6	2	1	4	8	9	7	5	3
8	5	9	3	1	7	2	6	4
4	7	3	5	6	2	1	8	9
9	6	2	8	7	3	5	4	1
3	8	5	2	4	1	6	9	7
1	4	7	9	5	6	3	2	8

Difficulty Level ★ 3/2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WINNIE THE POOH Solution: 6 letters

T	S	K	M	O	V	I	E	S	T	U	F	F	E	D
E	I	L	L	R	E	T	S	U	B	O	O	K	S	O
R	I	B	A	I	R	E	N	R	O	C	S	P	U	N
F	E	T	B	M	M	C	I	S	S	A	L	C	O	K
R	S	G	T	A	I	I	S	E	N	G	Ⓛ	L	H	E
P	O	E	G	O	R	N	R	T	S	Ⓦ	B	A	E	Y
L	O	B	L	I	L	U	A	U	Ⓞ	E	L	U	E	N
U	Y	E	I	Z	T	N	R	C	E	R	I	S	R	N
M	B	A	M	N	O	E	N	S	T	R	I	R	T	U
P	R	R	E	O	K	O	E	U	A	I	O	E	E	H
Y	A	V	L	C	I	I	W	E	N	N	V	Y	S	S
T	D	L	I	T	S	D	O	O	W	C	D	I	E	T
A	A	D	C	S	T	N	A	H	P	E	L	E	T	E
B	I	I	E	N	C	H	A	N	T	E	D	E	R	Y
R	F	K	L	T	E	L	E	V	I	S	I	O	N	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Travelogue

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38** call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderword.universaluclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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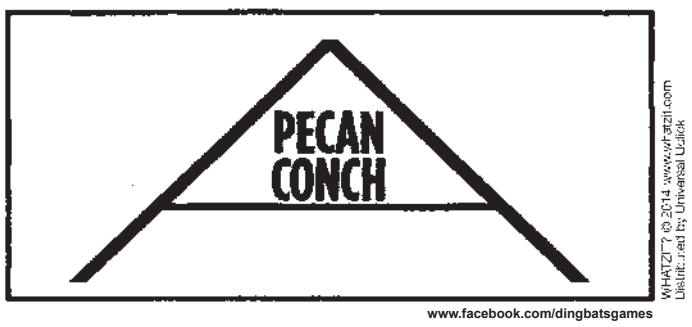

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Find today's solution in classified section

UConn upsets Michigan St 60-54, back to Final Four

NEW YORK (AP)—Shabazz Napier owed UConn.

He could have transferred when academic sanctions barred the Huskies from the NCAA tournament his junior season. But the guard wanted to pay back the school for the joy of a national title his freshman year, for his struggles as a sophomore.

Napier sure did that Sunday, carrying UConn back to the Final Four in front of thousands of roaring Huskies fans at Madison Square Garden. He scored 17 of his 25 points in the second half in a 60-54 upset of fourth-seeded Michigan State.

The East Regional's most outstanding player hit three huge free throws with 30.6 seconds left, making clutch shot after clutch shot just as Kemba Walker did when Napier was a freshman. The Huskies (30-8) rallied from a nine-point second-half deficit to become the first No. 7 seed to reach the Final Four since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985.

"His will to win—you could just see it," said Gary Harris, who led Michigan State with 22 points. "He wasn't going to let his team lose."

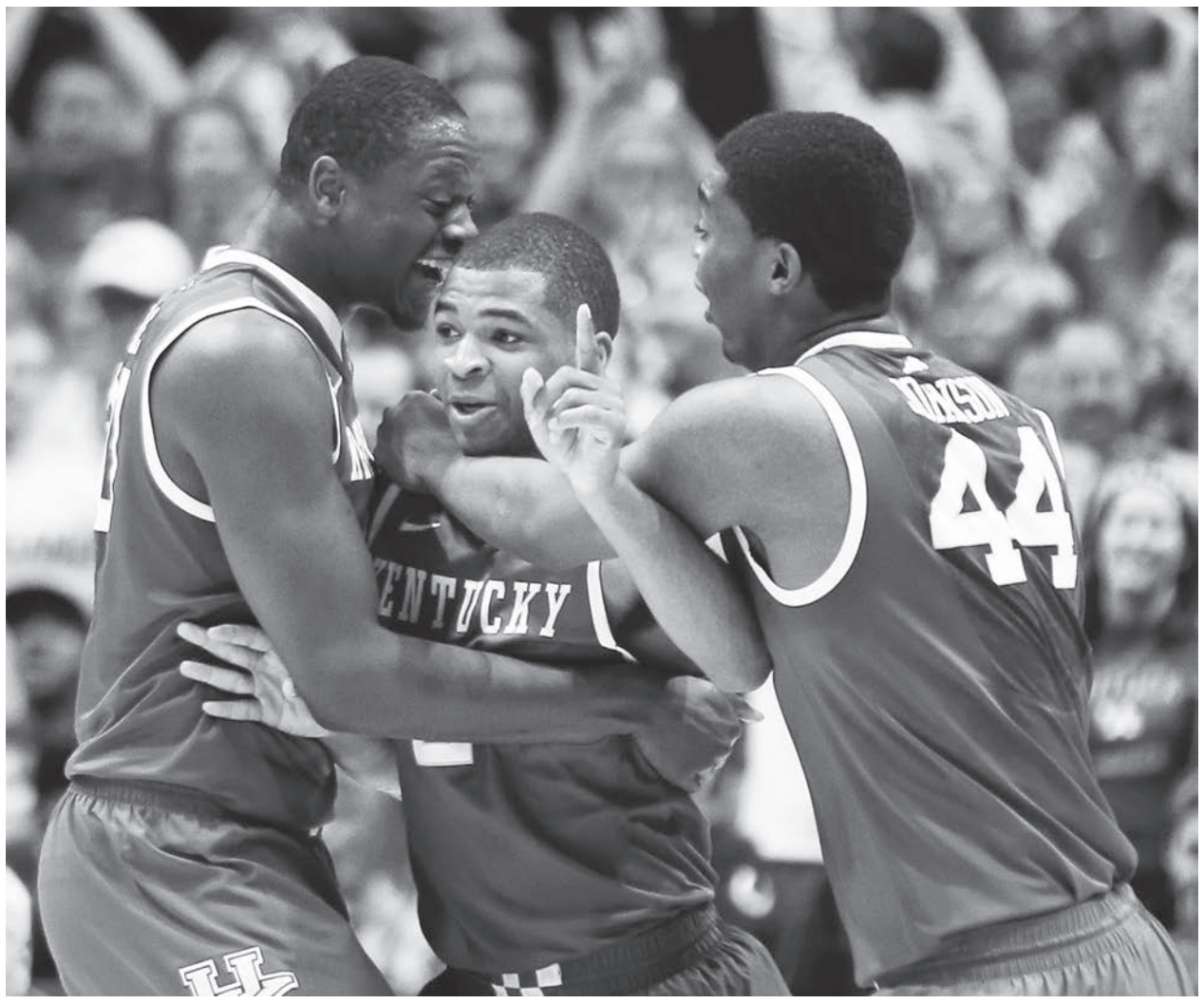
The Spartans' seniors become the first four-year players recruited by Tom Izzo to fail to make a Final Four.

"As the game got closer and closer to ending, it was on my mind a lot, every huddle," said big man Adreian Payne, who had 13 points and nine rebounds but was repeatedly pushed to the perimeter by UConn's defenders.

The undersized Huskies matched Michigan State's physical play box-out for box-out, holding the Spartans (29-9) to just six offensive rebounds and six points in the paint.

"We're physical, too," said second-year coach Kevin Ollie, who is now 4-0 in the NCAA tournament after replacing mentor Jim Calhoun. "Don't get it mixed up. We are predators out there."

UConn dared Michigan State to shoot 3-pointers, and the Spartans nearly made enough, going 11 for 29 from behind the arc. Harris was 4 for 9 on 3s, but his teammates were a combined 10 for 32 from the floor.



AP

Kentucky's Aaron Harrison is congratulated by teammates Julius Randle and Dakari Johnson (44) after making a three-point basket in the final seconds of the second half of an NCAA Midwest Regional final college basketball tournament game against Michigan Sunday, March 30, 2014, in Indianapolis. Kentucky won 75-72 to advance to the Final Four.

Kentucky 75, Michigan 72

In Indianapolis, the shot came from NBA range, and if things play out as expected, Aaron Harrison and a lot of those Kentucky kids will be playing in that league soon enough.

First, they're heading to the Final Four—a trip to Big D courtesy of Harrison's unforgettable big shot.

The 6-foot-6 forward made a 3-pointer from about 24 feet with 2.3 seconds left Sunday to lift the Wildcats and all those freshmen to a 75-72 win over Michigan and the program's 16th trip to the Final Four.

He backpedaled slowly, almost expressionless, after ball hit twine. Teammates Dakari Johnson and Julius Randle chased him down.

"Making that shot and seeing my teammates so happy and turning toward me, it's the best feeling in the world," Harrison said.

Michigan's Nik Stauskas missed a desperation heave at the buzzer and then, it was Harrison's turn on the bottom of a dog pile. Make that a puppy pile. Eighth-seeded Kentucky is the first all-freshman starting lineup to make the Final Four since the Fab Five at Michigan in 1992.

The Wildcats (28-10) will play Wisconsin next Saturday outside of Dallas at AT&T Stadium.

"They made a great shot," said Stauskas, who led the second-seeded Wolverines with 24 points. "I thought we did a pretty good job contesting it. It's part of basketball." The Wolverines (28-9) ended their season one win shy of a second straight Final Four.

Pacers stumble again, lose 90-76 to Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP)—Sitting in the last chair on Indiana's bench, David West stared straight ahead, unable to look at the court.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock on another disheartening loss, West seemed dazed.

The Pacers' promising season is unraveling

Dion Waiters scored 19 points, Luol Deng added 15 and the Cleveland Cavaliers kept their playoff push going with a 90-76 win Sunday over the skidding Pacers, who are losing their grip on the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Tristan Thompson had 16 rebounds as the Cavs snapped a nine-game losing streak against Indiana. Cleveland came in three games behind slumping, idle Atlanta for the conference's final playoff spot. With seven games left—six against teams with losing records—the Cavs still have a chance.

The Pacers, meanwhile, are falling apart. They lost their fifth straight road game and now lead Miami by one game for the East's top record and home-court advantage throughout the postseason. Since beating the Heat at home last week, Indiana has lost to Washington and Cleveland.

"We're losing games at an alarming rate to teams that are inferior to us," said West, who picked up a technical four in the fourth quarter. "We can't figure out a way to perform better. We've done what you do. We've had team meetings. We've had players-only meetings. We've had players and the coaches (meetings). We're kind of looking for answers right now, and things don't get any easier."

Paul George scored 15 and West 14 for Indiana, which fell behind by 21 in the fourth quarter.

Nets 114, Timberwolves 99

In New York, Paul Pierce scored 22 points as the Brooklyn Nets moved to the brink of a playoff spot by beating the Minnesota Timberwolves for their club record-equaling 13th straight home victory.

Pierce scored 16 in the first quarter, two nights after putting up 17 in the period, and didn't miss a shot in either. Joe Johnson added 19 points for the Nets, who would clinch a playoff spot if the New York Knicks lost to Golden State later Sunday.

Brooklyn equaled the longest home winning streak in the NBA this season and the best in the history of the franchise.

Corey Brewer and Kevin Martin each scored 21 for the Timberwolves, who had won two in row and were coming off the highest-scoring game in the NBA this season, when they scored a franchise-record 143 points in a rout of the Lakers on Friday.

Thunder 116, Jazz 96

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant had 31 points and nine assists to help the Oklahoma City Thunder defeat the Utah Jazz.

Durant scored at least 25 points for the 38th consecutive game, the longest streak since Michael Jordan did it in 40 straight games for the Chicago Bulls during the 1986-87 season.

Russell Westbrook scored 19 points, Serge Ibaka had 17 points and Caron Butler added 15 for the Thunder, who have won six of seven. Oklahoma City shot 55 percent from the field and made 11 of 18 3-pointers and 23 of 26 free throws.

Enes Kanter had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Jazz, who have lost four in a row.

Raptors 98, Magic 93

In Orlando, Florida, DeMar DeRozan had 28 points, Jonas Valanciunas added 20 points and nine rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors escaped with a victory over the Orlando Magic.

Trailing 96-93 with 8.9 seconds to play, the Magic had the ball and an opportunity to tie the game. But coming out of a timeout they failed to inbound the ball, turning it over on a 5-second violation. DeRozan was fouled and hit a pair of free throws to provide the final margin.

The win was the Raptors' third in a row and seventh straight over the Magic. Toronto swept the season series 3-0.

Nik Vucevic led the Magic with 22 points and 10 rebounds.

Bulls 107, Celtics 102

In Boston, D.J. Augustin scored 15 of his career-high 33 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Chicago Bulls held off the slumping Boston Celtics.

Augustin was perfect from the foul line on 10 attempts and was 10-for-14 from the floor, including a 3-pointer late in the period to break a 96-all tie and give Chicago the lead for good. He followed that with six straight free throws to help the Bulls close out the Celtics.

Joakim Noah finished with 13 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds for the Bulls, who will try for a three-game season sweep against the Celtics on Monday night in Chicago.

Rajon Rondo had 17 points and 11 assists for Boston, which has lost four straight and nine of 10.

Knicks 89, Warriors 84

In Oakland, California, J.R. Smith scored 21 points and Carmelo Anthony added 19 points and nine rebounds as the New York Knicks moved within one game of the final playoff spot by beating the undermanned Golden State Warriors.

The Knicks outscored Golden State 34-12 in the second quarter to go ahead 56-44 at the half, and then held off a furious rally by Stephen Curry and the Warriors in the closing minutes.

Curry scored 32 points, including a tying 3-pointer with 2:42 remaining. But he missed from long range in the final minute and also had a pass stolen by Raymond Felton on Golden State's final possession.

New York (31-43) is a game behind fast-fading Atlanta, which has lost six straight, for the final playoff seed in the weak Eastern Conference.

Lakers 115, Suns 99

In Los Angeles, Chris Kaman had 28 points along with 17 rebounds while starting at center for the vertigo-stricken Pau Gasol, helping the Los Angeles Lakers end the Phoenix Suns' six-game winning streak.

The undermanned Lakers shot 53 percent from the field, avoiding what would have been Phoenix's first season sweep over them since 2004-05. The Suns won the first three meetings by an average margin of 13.3 points, including a 117-90 rout on Dec. 23 at US Airways Center.

The 25-48 Lakers, returning home from a 143-107 loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves on Friday, beat a team with a winning record for only the eighth time all season.

Gerald Green scored 22 points off the bench for the Suns.

Trail Blazers 105, Grizzlies 98

In Portland, Oregon, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 28 points in his third game back from injury as the Portland Trail Blazers extended their winning streak to three games with a victory over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Reserve Mo Williams added 17 points and Wesley Mathews had 15 for the Blazers, who had five players score in double figures to avoid a three-game series sweep.

Portland opened a two-game lead over Golden State for the No. 5 spot in the Western Conference playoff race and pulled within 2½ games of No. 4 Houston with seven games remaining.

Zach Randolph scored 21 points and Marc Gasol had 20 points for the Grizzlies, who dropped a half-game behind idle Dallas for the West's final playoff berth.

Steven Bowditch wins Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Steven Bowditch held on to win the Texas Open in windy conditions Sunday for his first PGA Tour victory and a spot in the Masters.

The 30-year-old Australian bogeyed the par-5 18th for a 4-over 76 for a one-stroke victory.

"I'm over the moon. I really can't believe it," said Bowditch, who attempted suicide in 2006 and has fought depression throughout his career.

It was the highest closing score by a winner since Vijay Singh finished with a 4-over 76 in the 2004 PGA Championship, and the highest in a non-major since Fred Couples had a 5-over 77 in the 1983 Kemper Open.

Bowditch finished at 8-under 280 at TPC San Antonio and earned $1,116,000.

"Every time I got out of check, looking ahead to the Masters and winning golf events and making my speeches before I was finished, I had to pull myself in check every time," said Bowditch, wearing a green shirt. "And it happened a lot today."

Bowditch, based in Dallas, entered the week 339th in the world and had only two top-10 finishes in eight years on the tour. He won once on the Australasian circuit and twice on the Web.Com Tour.

Steven Bowditch, of Australia, poses with his trophy after winning the Texas Open golf tournament, Sunday, March 30, 2014, in San Antonio.
AP

"He's been a battler. He's gone through a lot in his life," said John Senden, a fellow Australian who won the Valspar Championship two weeks ago.

Senden waited about an hour after his round to shake Bowditch's hand.

"That last putt wasn't his best, but to finish it off he was as cool as a cucumber really," Senden said. "I'm proud to be his mate."

Will MacKenzie and Daniel Summerhays tied for second. MacKenzie shot 70, and Summerhays had a 71.

Chesson Hadley and Ryan Palmer missed chances to get into the Masters through the top 50 in the world ranking. Hadley, the Puerto Rico Open winner, needed at least a sixth-place finish, but closed with an 80 to tie for 56th at 5 over. Palmer needed a top-three finish and had an 82 to also tie for 56th.

Bowditch played the front nine in 3-over 39, making a double bogey on the par-4 fourth. He countered a bogey on the par-3 13th with a birdie on the par-5 14th and made three pars before missing a 3-foot par putt and settling for a bogey on 18.

On the par-3 16th, he got up-and-down after missing the green. He pushed his drive on the par-4 17th, hit his approach on the green and two-putted, then pulled his tee shot left on 18, recovered with a shot to the fairway and reached the green in three.

"I just drew back on some experience," Bowditch said.

MacKenzie made a 13-foot birdie putt on the 17th to pull within a stroke of Bowditch, but the Australian tapped in from 2 feet for his birdie at No. 14 to push the advantage back to two.

Matt Kuchar and Andrew Loupe shot 75s to tie for fourth at 6-under.

MLB heats up with full slate of openers

By HOWIE RUMBERG
AP SPORTS WRITER

After a brutal winter of arctic blasts and blustery snowstorms, baseball is ready to heat up Monday with its first full slate of games this season.

David Ortiz and the World Series champion Boston Red Sox begin their title defense in Baltimore against home run king Chris Davis and the AL East rival Orioles. Robinson Cano makes his Seattle Mariners debut, looking to live up to a huge contract—just like Miguel Cabrera and Mike Trout.

Behind the scenes, umpires at all six replay stations in New York will be at the ready for the first time in baseball history.

"We recognize fully that last year is behind us, and everyone is looking forward to (Monday) and beyond," Red Sox manager John Farrell said.

The start of Derek Jeter's retirement tour will wait one more day. The New York Yankees, with baseball's oldest roster, will face the youngest on Tuesday night in Houston.

By the time Detroit's Justin Verlander throws a pitch at 1:08 p.m. EDT in the first of 13 games Monday, the Dodgers will already have played openers on two continents and put $215 million ace Clayton Kershaw on the disabled list.

Los Angeles swept a pair Down Under from the Diamondbacks on March 22-23, with Kershaw winning the first regular-season major league game in Australia before an upper back muscle acted up. The Dodgers then played at San Diego in the North American opener Sunday night.

Still, ballparks around country will be buzzing with optimistic fans and, other than in Oakland, sunny skies and seasonably warm temperatures are expected to provide a wonderful backdrop—what a relief!—for the days' festivities.

"Should be a pretty good day for a ballgame," said Richard Bann, a meteorologist at the Weather Prediction Center.

The Pittsburgh Pirates certainly will be celebrating their first winning season and trip to the playoffs since 1992, and they'll have help handing out some hardware from two key members of that team: Barry Bonds and Jim Leyland.

Bonds, the `92 NL MVP, will be on hand to honor 2013 MVP Andrew McCutchen. The recently retired Leyland, a two-time Manager of the Year with Pittsburgh, is going to present Clint Hurdle with his Manager of the Year award for guiding the Pirates to a 94-68 record and wild-card berth.

The son of Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner, who died in February, will throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

Kiner will be honored in New York, too, where the Mets host Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals, a World Series favorite once again. Dillon Gee will make his first opening day start after New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio throws out the ceremonial first pitch.

In Texas, Tanner Scheppers, a converted setup man, will be the first pitcher to make his first major league start in a season opener since Fernando Valenzuela in 1981 for the Dodgers. Scheppers will have new slugger Prince Fielder at first base when the Rangers host Cliff Lee and the Philadelphia Phillies in an interleague game.

Scheppers got the nod because major league strikeout leader Yu Darvish is on the disabled list with a sore neck.

Atlanta's Kris Medlen, Oakland's Jarrod Parker and Arizona's Patrick Corbin are out, too. While Darvish may miss only one start, Medlen, Parker and Corbin are out for the season after having Tommy John surgery.

One pitcher who escaped serious injury is Reds closer Aroldis Chapman. He's sidelined at least a month more after being hit in the forehead by a line drive during spring training.

Not only will Cincinnati be without Chapman when it opens against NL Central rival St. Louis for just the second time in 20 years, the Reds have eight players on the DL—a major league high heading into the season. Texas is right behind with seven.

The Milwaukee Brewers get back star slugger Ryan Braun for their home opener against the Braves. Braun is returning from a 65-game suspension he accepted last season for his involvement in the Biogenesis performance-enhancing drug scandal.

Braun will take his position on the lush new grass at Miller Park, a field grown under heat lamps imported from Europe because the winter temperatures in Wisconsin were too cold—even with the roof closed.

"But regardless of what Mother Nature gave us here, we're going to have it ready for opening day," said Michael Boettcher, the team's director of grounds.

Smith, Denorfia lift Padres to 3-1 win over LA

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The moderate-payroll San Diego Padres pulled one over on the big-spending Los Angeles Dodgers.

Seth Smith hit a towering drive for a tying homer leading off the eighth inning and Chris Denorfia singled home two runs to give the Padres a 3-1 victory against the rival Dodgers in baseball's North American opener Sunday night.

The Dodgers set a record with an opening-day payroll of $234 million. The Padres are 23rd at just under $90 million.

Padres closer Huston Street, who pitched a perfect ninth for the save, said he has no problem with the discrepancy.

"They've got a lot of talent and their talent has earned those salaries," Street said. "They're not just given. At the same time, a lot of guys in this locker room are young guys. They haven't hit that free agency mark. They haven't hit those big salary years. We could be sitting on a higher payroll team. You don't worry about it too much just because baseball is such a game of execution."

The Padres out-executed the Dodgers.

Smith's first hit with the Padres came on a 2-0 pitch from Brian Wilson, who started the eighth after Hyun-Jin Ryu threw seven scoreless innings. It sailed an estimated 360 feet into the right-field seats. It was his seventh career pinch-hit homer. He was acquired in an offseason trade with Oakland for reliever Luke Gregerson.

Wilson (0-1) walked pinch-hitter Yasmani Grandal, who advanced when the veteran reliever couldn't handle Everth Cabrera's bunt for an error. Grandal stole third and Cabrera took second on indifference before Denorfia hit a bouncer up the middle to bring them both in.

"They're all just one game, but when you're facing a team like the Dodgers, full of great players, Brian Wilson, a guy who knows how to get it done in those situations, it's not easy to do what our hitters did," Street said. "To come back and get three right there in that situation, especially after leaving guys on base early, that's what this team is going to have to do to win. We're going to have to battle all year long."

Dale Thayer (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth for the win.

Smith was acquired to provide a left-handed bat off the bench. He went deep on a cutter.

"You get in the box and it's an at-bat," he said. "As a professional ballplayer, you hope that you can kind of flush the fact that it's your first at-bat with your team or it's in a big spot or whatever, and just do what you've been practicing for the last six weeks."

Wilson said it was tough to deal with because Ryu "pitched such a marvelous game. It's a hard one to swallow."

He said he threw a pitch "that was a little bit uncharacteristic of me. Right then and there, the tire deflated."

The defending NL West champion Dodgers had started the regular season with a two-game sweep of the Arizona Diamondbacks in Sydney.

Ryu got the start after reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw was scratched due to a swollen back muscle and then placed on the 15-day disabled list for the first time in his seven-year career.

In a scheduling quirk, the left-hander started consecutive regular-season games. He made his season debut a week earlier, when the Dodgers beat the Diamondbacks in their second game in Australia.

Ryu retired 16 in a row from the second inning until one out in the seventh. He then walked rookie Tommy Medica, who was then erased in a 3-6-3 double play.

Ryu allowed three hits, struck out seven and walked three.

The Dodgers grabbed the lead on a nice piece of hitting by Carl Crawford with two outs in the fifth.

Crawford went the other way with an 0-2 pitch from Andrew Cashner, hitting it over third baseman Chase Headley to bring in Dee Gordon from second. Gordon had reached on a walk and advanced when Cashner fielded Ryu's bunt and forced A.J. Ellis at third.

Cashner allowed four hits in six innings. He struck out five and walked two.

Pacquiao more motivated after Bradley's taunts

BOXING

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao is taking extra motivation from taunts by unbeaten Tim Bradley that the Filipino boxing icon has lost the hunger and killer instinct he once displayed with great passion.

"The more he says that, the more he inspires me to show the hunger and killer instinct he's talking about," Pacquiao said Tuesday. "It's good for me but not for him I think."

Pacquiao, 55-5 with two drawn and 38 knockouts, will fight Bradley, 31-0 with 12 knockouts, for the American's World Boxing Organization welterweight title in Las Vegas on April 12.

The fight will be a rematch of a controversial Bradley victory by split decision in June of 2012 in which all three judges scored the fight 115-113, two of them for Bradley in what was seen as a robbery from Pacquaio.

"You don't get mad. It's part of life," said Freddie Roach, Pacquaio's trainer

"Revenge is great. That's what we have a chance to do here. If everything goes right we will knock this guy out."

AP

Boxer Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, left, poses for a photo with current WBO World Welterweight champion Timothy Bradley of Indio, Calif., during a press conference Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in New York.

Taunts

Bradley has noted how Pacquiao has not stopped a foe since Miguel Cotto in 2009 and has not won a fight inside 12 rounds since dropping Ricky Hatton nearly five years ago, helping rekindle the fires inside the 35-year-old Asian southpaw.

"I'm not angry or disappointed at what he told me. I'm happy he told me that," Pacquiao said. "It inspired me to train harder and focus on the fight. It will benefit me.

"I have not lost the hunger. Sometimes we knock the guy out and sometimes not."

Pacquiao said he sees no more need for a knockout than usual even after the controversial loss to Bradley in their first meeting.

"We're not focusing on the knockout," Pacquiao said. "The focus is on being more aggressive, throwing more punches. If that outcome comes, it's fine. I just want to prove that I can have the killer instinct."

'We'll be able to stop him'

Roach says Pacquiao relaxed late in the prior fight after dominating early rounds, he thought, on the judges' scorecards. This time, there will be no coasting as the 12-round fight goes on.

"It was so easy for him in the early rounds," Roach said. "In the later rounds he wasn't throwing combinations. He was throwing single punches because he had done so well in the earlier rounds.

"We need to be a little more aggressive in this fight. I think if we fight at an aggressive pace in this fight I think we will be able to stop him somewhere along the way. Whatever Bradley brings to the table we'll be ready."

But, Roach cautions, that does not mean seeking a knockout to appease taunts by Bradley and forget strategy and planning.

"We don't go into fights looking for knockouts. If they come they come," Roach said. "We're planning to beat him every round. If you try to knock the guy out you will be waiting all night."

'No one is perfect'

Pacquiao said he does not feel angry at the judges from the first fight.

"No one is perfect in this world. Sometimes they make mistakes," said Pacquiao. "I wasn't bothered after that fight when I went home. The reaction of the people was not negative. It was positive. They thought I won the fight.

"I'm not thinking about the judges. What I want to do is focus on the ring about the strategy and techniques that we work on in the gym."

Pacquiao also said that his US and Filipino tax issues and political life would not be distractions.

"There's nothing I have to worry about," said Pacquiao of tax cases against him. "I didn't hide anything. I'm not worried about that."

As for his role as a lawmaker in the Philippines, Pacquiao said, "Politics is really about the nation, the small people. You cannot compare politics to boxing." ***(AFP)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	42	31	.575	–
Brooklyn	39	33	.542	2½
New York	31	43	.419	11½
Boston	23	50	.315	19
Philadelphia	16	57	.219	26

Southeast Division

y-Miami	50	22	.694	–
Washington	38	35	.521	12½
Charlotte	35	38	.479	15½
Atlanta	31	41	.431	19
Orlando	21	53	.284	30

Central Division

y-Indiana	52	22	.703	–
x-Chicago	41	32	.562	10½
Cleveland	30	45	.400	22½
Detroit	26	47	.356	25½
Milwaukee	14	59	.192	37½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	16	.781	–
Houston	49	23	.681	7½
Dallas	44	30	.595	13½
Memphis	43	30	.589	14
New Orleans	32	41	.438	25

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	54	19	.740	–
Portland	48	27	.640	7
Minnesota	36	36	.500	17½
Denver	32	41	.438	22
Utah	23	51	.311	31½

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Clippers	52	22	.703	–
Golden State	45	28	.616	6½
Phoenix	44	30	.595	8
L.A. Lakers	25	48	.342	26½
Sacramento	25	48	.342	26½

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELING

From Page 28

two other pairs. The winning duo was first paired versus the father-and-daughter tandem of Dong Min and Carol Lee last Friday and cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 victory. Then last Sunday morning, Lopez and Beling were pitted against Peter Loken and Thea Minor and won anew, 6-2, 6-0, to rule the division.

A few hours after playing in the mixed open doubles, the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis instructor saw action in the men's open singles finals and beat Moris Villanueva, 6-4, 6-0. Earlier in the semifinals last Saturday afternoon, Beling also needed only two sets to eliminate Amami Sakano, 6-1, 6-0. Sakano made it to the semis after a walkover win versus Michael Ren, while Beling notched the other finals berth in the upper half of the draw, following a 6-0, 6-1 triumph against Seiya Eda.

In the lower half of the bracket, Villanueva outclassed Jake Lee, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2, and then stunned CNMI coach Jeff Race in the semifinals, 6-3, 6-4, to march into the championship game. Race arranged a semis date with Villanueva after rallying past Tommy Choi, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Meanwhile, four other singles events were played in the final week of the tournament sponsored by PIC-Saipan, Pacific Trading, Co. (Gatorade and Monster), and IP&E.

In the men's 3.0 singles finals, Randy Steele won the battle of the managers. The Triple J Motors manager swept PIC SEA and events manager Dennis Tababa in the title showdown, 6-3, 6-1. Steele also took the short route to the finals after eliminating Nick Tosh in the semis in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1. Tababa earned a two-set victory, too, against fellow PIC employee Keoni Ichihara in the other semis pairing, 6-1, 6-2.

In the men's 4.0 singles, Luther Lizama prevailed in an all-junior player title tiff against Colin Ramsey, 7-6 (10-8), 6-4. Lizama advanced into the finals after a 6-1, 6-1 victory over PIC's Darrel Roligat, while Colin topped father Gary in the other semis match, 6-4, 6-2.

In the round-robin women's open singles, Thea Minor won against Carol Lee and Lopez. Minor first played Lee and worked out a 6-7 (7-5), 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 victory last Saturday afternoon. The eventual women's open singles champion then met Lopez last Sunday and swept the latter, 6-3, 6-0. Lopez settled for the runner-up honors, as she earlier defeated Lee, 6-1, 7-6 (7-5).

In the women's 3.0 finals, Tania Tan outclassed Grace Choi, 6-4, 6-2.

RED SOX

From Page 28

an RBI single and after failing to bat in the third, he showed up in the fourth with a one-run inside-the-park homer. A fly ball to rightfield in the fifth inning prevented Lizama from having a perfect record at the plate, but nevertheless, his consistent hitting powered the Red Sox to the easy win.

Besides Lizama's two RBIs, the Red Sox got two more off Vincent Leon Guerrero's RBI single and Jose Tyquengco's RBI double for a 4-0 lead, which increased to 9-0 after two innings. The Red Sox racked up five runs in the second inning off Jhace Palacios' two-run double, Lizama and Craig Aguon's singles, and a passed ball.

With the Red Sox threatening a breakaway, the Lions needed some offense to stay in the game and they found a few in Kobe Tomokane and Peter Santos' RBI singles at the bottom of the third. However, the Red Sox quickly got the two runs with Lizama's homer at the top of the fourth and closed the inning with one more run off a passed ball for a 12-2 advantage.

The Red Sox went on to take the early win in the next inning via 10-run mercy rule, as they collected five more runs at the top of the fifth and shut down the Lions at the bottom. Leon Guerrero had a two-run double, Bradley Lieto hit an RBI single, and the Red Sox nailed two more runs off the Lions' errors at the top of the fifth. At the bottom, pitcher Jobe Reyes struck out Tomokane and the Red Sox got the two other outs off a double play with Palacios catching a fly ball from third batter Jay Lee and then tagging out second batter Denny Jepen.

Jets 8, Fielders 1

In the second Senior League game last Saturday, the Jets allowed no earned runs to the Fielders to notch the easy win.

Nathan Camacho helped the Jets secure the victory, as he pitched five innings, gave up only three hits, and struck out six batters.

Camacho's counterpart with the Fielders, Mike Muna, also did well in the first three innings, bagging six strikeouts, but the Jets managed to score two runs off their foe's error in the second inning to take the lead. Muna continued to pitch for the Fielders in the fourth inning, but struggled this time, giving up a two-run single to Kiko Lizama, an RBI single to T.J. Dela Cruz, and an RBI walk to Kenji Yamagata. The Jets got another run off a sacrifice fly to stretch their lead to 7-0 after four complete innings.

At the bottom of the fifth, the Fielders finally scored with Joe Guerrero reaching home off Franco Nakamura's booboo at the plate. However, the Fielders failed to launch a comeback against the steady defense of the Jets in the last two innings.

GWAP GANG

From Page 28

points off a triple and a layup for Docomo's final push, 65-70, with 2:07 left on the clock.

Docomo had a chance to move closer when Gwap Gang missed on the other end, but Tony Diaz also muffed a triple, while an undergoal stab by Kelvin Fitial gave Gwap Gang more cushion. Docomo failed to convert another shot from downtown, while Rodney Sacramento nailed a fastbreak layup to seal it for Gwap Gang, 74-65, with less than a minute left in the game. Docomo faltered four more attempts in the closing seconds and made only two free throws in the last two minutes of the match to kiss its semis bid goodbye.

Docomo played catch up in the third quarter, as it lost a 34-31 halftime lead after scoring only 15 points against the 26 of Gwap Gang in that period. Sacramento and Fitial connived in the third-quarter assault, firing 8 and 7 points, respectively, while Shane Diaz chipped in 5.

A Fitial feed to Lester Vertudez in the paint right into the opening seconds of the fourth canto gave Gwap Gang 2 more points and padded its lead to 10 before Docomo answered with three quick baskets to stay afloat.

However, Docomo failed to keep its momentum and lost focus in the ensuing minutes due to confusions in the scores. After Vertudez canned a 2-point field goal, people manning the scorers' table inadvertently added 4 points to Gwap Gang. Docomo continued to contest the scores, while Gwap Gang hit two more field goals to gain more distance. Finally at the halfway mark of the fourth, the scores were corrected with Gwap Gang ahead by only 10, 65-55.

A 10-5 run in the next two minutes of play, capped by Bisana's string of 5 points, kept Docomo in the game, but again it failed to complete the comeback bid, allowing Gwap Gang to take the fourth and last semis berth.

Earlier in the first game, the Pelicans bagged the third semis seat after ousting TBK Mechanics, 65-60.

Leo Galarse powered the Pelicans to the close win, scoring 30 points, while Don Brennan chipped in 12, including 4 of the team's last 5 points. Galarse drilled the Pelicans' last point and he had 16 in the fourth quarter alone, tallying 9 straight markers at one point to keep the squad's distance.

With the victory, the Pelicans will duel IT&E in the first semis tiff tomorrow at 6pm. IT&E automatically advanced to the semis after placing second to San Antonio in the regular season, as the former earned a 6-3 record against the latter's 7-2.

First Game

Pelicans 65 – Galarse 30, Brennan 12, Babauta 8, Camacho 5, Bahillo 3, Yamada 2.

TBK Mechanics 60 – I. Devero 18, Guiab 8, C. Devero 9, Velasco 8, Mateo 8, Sablan 3, Che 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-10, 27-24, 41-40, 65-60.

Second Game

Gwap Gang 75 – Fitial 20, Sacramento 15, Diaz 13, Vertudez 11, Ito 7, Ano 3, Yap 2.

Docomo 67 – Bisana 14, Villacrusis 13, Diaz 12, J, Camacho 10, D. Camacho 7, Sison 5, Sanciangco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-11, 31-34, 57-49, 75-67.

2014 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The MISO All-Stars' William Camacho fakes off the defense of Marianas High School's Ignacio Borja and Jeron Ano during their title game in the 2014 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Marianas High School's Kobe Mendoza goes up for a layup.

Marianas High School's Justin Cayading dribbles out of trouble.

Marianas High School's Wilfredo Francisco is sandwiched by the MISO All-Stars' Allen Yu, left, and Emerson Feria.

The MISO All-Stars' Jesse Santos goes up for a one-hander against Marianas High School's Jeron Ano.

A Settsu Red Impulse player tries to dribble past a Notre Dame defender.

The MISO All-Stars' Marc Babauta pulls up for a shot against Marianas High School's Kobe Mendoza, left, and Weslee Gabaldon.

Marianas High School's Michael Yap attempts a floater against the MISO All-Stars' Lucio Sanchez.

A Settsu Red Impluse player runs into the defense of a Notre Dame player.

Two Notre Dame players battle one Settsu Red Impulse player for the rebound.

UConn upsets Michigan St 60-54, back to Final Four

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Sports

Steven Bowditch wins Texas Open

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Beling completes rare grand slam

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Luke Beling, seen here preparing to serve during his and Jeff Race's men's doubles game against Amami Sakano and Tommy Choi, won the men's open singles and mixed open doubles titles in the 2014 Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships over the weekend at the PIC hardcourt.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Luke Beling completed a sweep of his three events in the 14th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships, claiming two more division titles over the weekend at the PIC hardcourt.

Beling, who clinched the men's open doubles crown with fellow coach Jeff Race in the opening week of the annual tournament, bagged the men's open singles and mixed open doubles championships in the second and final week.

In the mixed open doubles, Beling teamed up with Mikayla Lopez and they prevailed in the round-robin tournament against

See BELING on Page 26

Red Sox ends slide, whips Lions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Red Sox snapped a two-game losing skid, following a 17-2 crushing of the Lions in the Senior League game in the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Red Sox (7-2) took only five innings to beat the winless Lions (0-9) and recovered from back-to-back losses they suffered at the hands of the JPO Enforcers on March 22 and 24.

Henry Lizama led the Red Sox's rout of the Lions, as he went 3-for-4 at the plate and scored four RBIs. The Red Sox second baseman started his impressive performance at the plate with a two-run double at the top of the first inning. In the second inning, Lizama blasted

See RED SOX on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Red Sox pitcher gets ready to throw from the mound, while his teammate stays back on defense during their first round meeting with the Lions in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Gwap Gang completes semis cast in MDX caging

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gwap Gang's Mike Ito stretches to get the ball in this rebound play against Docomo's Tony Diaz, while Juan Camacho looks on during the third quarter of their playoff game in the MDX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gwap Gang withstood Docomo Pacific's repeated rallies to pull off a 75-67 win in their playoff game in the 2014 MDX Amateur Radio Club Basketball League last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

With the victory, Gwap Gang advanced to the semifinals and will be facing regular season top finisher San Antonio in the second Final Four match tomorrow at 8pm.

Gwap Gang led by as much as 12, 51-39, in the second half and was still ahead by twin digits, 70-60, at the 2:30 mark of the fourth quarter when Cecilio Bisana scored 5 straight

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